SPORTS / A20

Reversal of roles: Media execs grilled in Senate hearing

By Christian V. Esguerra

SENATORS led by former press freedom champion Joker Arroyo yesterday took turns browbeating messengers of bad news for allegedly tarnishing the country's image with their reporting on the botched hostage rescue.

The Senate committee on public information and mass media grilled news executives of the three major TV networks for three hours, warning it would pass a law if the industry could not draw up uniform guidelines in reporting on life-

REVERSAL A-19

SPORTS / A20

Nadal captures US Open, completes career Grand Slam

ACROSS / A18

HK tourists keep Clark busy despite Aug. 23 bloodbath

BUSINESS / B1

Chinese to pursue RP nickel project

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, September 15, 2010 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 279 P18

Cops sound alarm on 'Dancing Bandit'

By Jeannette I. Andrade and DJ Yap

FOR A WHILE, 52-year-old Lipaya Castillo thought she was watching the "Dancing Queen." Little did she know of the last person she'd see in the "Dancing Bandit."

The Manila Police District (MPD) has uncovered a new style of robbery following

COPS A-11

Swift SC mercy for Merci

TOUGH JOB Newly appointed PNP Director General Raul Bacalzo troops the line during Tuesday's turnover rites in Camp Crame, Quezon City. He takes command of a police force that is facing harsh criticisms over the botched rescue of Hong Kong tourists on a bus seized by a dismissed policeman.

Lawmakers to defy high tribunal order

By Marlon Ramos and Michael Lim Ubac

MOVING swiftly, the Supreme Court yesterday stopped impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Merceditas "Merci" Gutierrez, but the chair of the House justice committee said he would defy the order and warned of a constitutional crisis.

The court, voting 8-5, directed the committee headed by Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. to observe a status quo ante before ruling Gutierrez's petition for certiorari and prohibition, which claimed the impeachment cases against her were "capricious and whimsical."

Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said that the tribunal's directive meant that the panel should observe the situation before it decided to give due course to two separate impeachment complaints after finding them sufficient in form and substance.

Marquez said that the court decided to issue an indefinite order for a status quo ante, rather than a temporary restraining order (TRO), because "the act sought to be restrained has not yet been perfected." It gave the committee 10 days to

SWIFT A-19

OMBUDSMAN Gutierrez: Instant relief from the highest court of the land

'Jueteng' in North, 'swertres' in South

By Inquirer Bureaus

IN PUBLIC markets, carinderia (eateries), beauty parlors and barber shops, even church grounds and government offices, "jueteng" bet collectors approach people discreetly to record and accept bets.

This is happening as several provinces in northern and central Luzon amid pronouncements from local officials that the illegal numbers racket had been stopped.

In other provinces, jueteng operators behind the cover of the government-sanctioned Small Town Lottery (STL). Some Luzon STL collectors have been soliciting bets on behalf of jueteng operators.

In the Visayas, the common forms of illegal gambling are the "daily double," video kar-

JUETENG A-11

Verzosa didn't heed order to stop 'jueteng'

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—Outgoing Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa did not take orders despite directives from the Aquino administration for him to stop "jueteng" operations.

It was learned from a Palace official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, that Verzosa had received two confidential letters in July.

The letters directed him to submit reports and immediately take action on jueteng, because if not, "the first to get the blame would be the Philippine National Police, next is the Department of Interior and Local Gov-

VERZOSA A-11

MARCHING ORDERS

Aquino to Bacalzo: Walk straight path

By Norman Bordadora and Alexis Pupa

HARDEY HARM in his seat, the new Philippine National Police chief faced an immediate challenge from human rights advocates—curb the killings of political activists and media people, and arrest the masterminds behind the murders.

Deputy Director General Raul Bacalzo yesterday assumed command of the 120,000-strong PNP with a promise from President Aquino that he would provide them better equipment, health care and housing in exchange for the integrity and valor of the force.

Speaking at the turnover ceremonies at Camp Crame, Mr. Aquino ordered his "marching orders" to the entire police force into four words: "Walk the straight path."

The President also pledged to see to it that funds intended for national security use would not end up in the pockets of anomalous people.

Others sent out different

AQUINO A-11

Priests getting 'jueteng' money, says Cruz

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AT LEAST eight dioceses in Luzon and the Visayas are accepting money from "jueteng" operators as donations, Archbishop Ernesto Oscar Cruz said yesterday.

Jueteng is an illegal numbers racket played mostly by the poor.

Cruz, head of the People's Crusade Against Jueteng, refused to identify any of the dioceses receiving jueteng money that his group had monitored.

"We know it among ourselves...we know each other," he said at a forum sponsored by the Catholic Media Network in Intramuros, Manila.

Cruz reiterated that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had adopted a policy statement in 2005 denouncing illegal gambling in all its forms.

He said that it was also a CBCP policy to refrain from soliciting or receiving funds from any forms of gambling even if it were for the benefit of the poor.

Malacañang estimates that jueteng enjoyed gross sales of P17.7 billion a year, an amount bigger than the P1.7 billion in sales generated by the new

PRIESTS A-12

BULLISH President Aquino (second from left) poses with business tycoons Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Manuel V. Pangilinan and Tessie Sy-Coson before ringing the bell to formally open trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City on Tuesday, a day after the main index hit a record high.

Medical nightmare: Superbugs

BOSTON—An infectious disease nightmare is unfolding. Bacteria that have been made resistant to nearly all antibiotics by an alarming new gene have sickened people in three states and are popping up all over the world, health officials reported on Monday.

The US cases and two others in Canada all involve people who had recently received medical care in India, where the problem is widespread. A British medical journal revealed the risk last month in an article describing dozens of cases in Britain in people who had gone

MEDICAL A-13

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

WEATHER FORECAST

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Kalibo	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy	General Santos	Mostly Cloudy

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6/55

2nd	4 22
3rd	13 8
4th	5 14

SUPER 6/49

1st	2 3 1
2nd	5 6 8

SIX DIGIT (Tuesday)

7 2 5 4 2 3

6/42 MEGA MIN

10 14 16 28 31 34

P5,833,462.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

22 31 33 34 36 49

P12,854,374.00

LOTTO 3D/2D | 6D LOTTO | 4D/2D | PCSO draws

HACIENDA LUISITA DISPUTE

Farmers claim breakthrough

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

THE OWNERS of the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac have agreed to give up 4,100 hectares of farmland in exchange for "just compensation" following a mediation session yesterday, according to representatives of farmers' groups claiming ownership of the estate belonging to the family of President Aquino.

Those could be a resolution of the case before the end of the year, either through mediation or a final Supreme Court ruling, said Chrisdan Monsod, counsel for the Transcentury Agricultural Reform Cooperative.

"This could be a breakthrough if Hacienda Luisita is really sincere about a fair settlement," Monsod said in a phone interview.

Hacienda Luisita Inc. spokesperson Tony Ligon, however, denied that the estate's owners had offered to give up the land.

What HLI said was that if [illegible] "objection" to such a scheme provided that it was the "wish of the majority of farm workers" at the hacienda, he said.

"How can that be enforced when that is the exact case scenario?" Ligon said.

He explained that if resolutions talk collapsed, the Supreme Court would have to rule on the case and that would affect all the 4,100 hectares.

"What we are saying is that HLI is open to all options but it is the will of the legitimate farmers that should prevail," said Ligon, adding that a referendum might be held to determine what the farmers want.

All options considered

Last August, a referendum was conducted among the farmer beneficiaries, where they were asked to choose between retaining the stock distribution scheme approved in 2010 or turning a piece of the estate. Seventy percent of the farmers voted to retain the SDO.

"What is good here is that all options are being considered by [those who are participating in the mediation talks]," he said.

"It is only until we have reached an agreement by all of those who have participated that we can say that there has been a breakthrough. But, we will respect whatever opinion [the other parties] have," Ligon said.

According to Monsod, the breakthrough was reached after hours of mediation by a three-member panel composed of retired Supreme Court said Court of Appeals justices at the high court yesterday.

He said the mediation panel had informed the farmers' groups that HLI was willing to give up the remaining 4,161 hectares of the 6,435-hectare estate, "subject to acceptable valuation" by the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

'Appropriate offsets'

Monsod said representatives from the Land Bank would start the valuation work on Monday, to determine how much was between of the land is worth.

The valuation would include "appropriate offsets" of farmers' wages, incentives and revenues, and proper accounting of the HLI's management of funds, including the proceeds of the P1.23-billion sale of a 500-ha portion of the estate in 1990, Monsod said.

"It's a double standard. Farmers are [expected] that they must be totally realistic [in their quest for justice]," he said.

At the start of the mediation, the panel rejected the motion by another farmers' group, Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Hacienda Luisita (Ambala), to set aside the mediation ordered by the high court.

Also present at the mediation were Agrarian Reform Secretary Celso Lo Ravoy, and lawyers from the Office of the Solicitor General.

The mediation was undertaken pending the resolution of a case questioning the validity of a scheme adopted by HLI to distribute stocks, called the stock distribution option, instead of land in accordance with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

MWSS defied warning on execs' perks—COA

By Lala B. Sabarreta and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LONG before their executive compensation package was exposed to public scrutiny, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had defied audit officials' 2008 recommendations to stop granting unauthorized bonuses and allowances in 2009, according to the latest report from the Commission on Audit.

The COA report listed the various unauthorized or improperly given bonuses, allowances and incentives that MWSS personnel received in 2009 amounting to more than P150 million.

It said in 2008 directive prohibiting giving such incentives supposedly fell on deaf ears.

The MWSS governing board continued to authorize the payment of the benefits and the grant of additional bonuses and allowances as well as other huge bonuses despite the audit agency's recommendation that these be stopped because they did not have sufficient legal basis, the COA said.

Audit officials earlier disclosed at a Senate hearing on the allegedly excessive bonuses and allowances to government-owned and controlled corporations that it had disallowed 33 types of MWSS bonuses given out in 2009.

The COA's 2008 recommendations that were ignored included the disapproval of wrongly computed and improperly given representation and transportation allowances; payment of hazard pay; the continuous payment of the cost of living allowance; and the hiring of consultants whose duties duplicate those of regular employees.

The COA also recommended that the MWSS obtain the required approval from the Executive for the budget department before granting bonuses and allowances, and to fix the rates for the payment of the transportation and miscellaneous expenses, but the MWSS failed to do this.

The COA said the officials who allowed the granting of the disapproved allowances should be held liable.

For 2009, the COA had disallowed bonuses, allowances and other benefits amounting to P150.28 million.

It said MWSS officials and employees also received P1.296 million in hazard pay, even though their office in Quezon City was not in a war zone or in an embattled area.

"Since the office of MWSS at the MWSS Compound, Balara, Quezon City is certainly not a trouble-torn or embattled area, the granting of hazard pay is therefore not allowed," it said.

It also said that accounting to P6.209 million granted to personnel were not in accordance with prescribed rates and the prescribed positions. MWSS personnel received flats or 40 percent of basic salary even though this was not the prescribed rate. There were also personnel who received the flats despite not being entitled to such benefits.

The payment of P31.436 million in extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses (ME) to the MWSS board members, officers and employees also violated the General Appropriations Act, it was found.

The audit body also found that the grant of the collective negotiation agreement (CNA) incentive for 2009 amounting to P34.299 million did not follow the guidelines prescribed in budget department circulars.

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Poll gun ban starts next week

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TUGUEGARAO, The Commission on Election is implementing soon a nationwide gun ban beginning next week to curb violence stemming from the unclear result of the vote to be cast in the ballot boxes to be manned by elections.

Election Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal yesterday announced that the total gun ban will take effect beginning Sept. 20 to Nov. 20 encompassing an election.

"Like in the previous May 10 elections, there is still some security guns to some but it has to be sequestered," said Larrazabal in an interview with reporters.

The same rules of the gun ban shall be observed for the upcoming balloting.

Larrazabal said the Comelec has decided to re-implement the next gun ban because some security forces found it effective in preventing crimes and violence during the barangay automated elections four months ago.

Saudi gov't asked to probe Pinay's death

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY in Saudi Arabia has made "strong representations" with its host government for a thorough investigation of the Sept. 8 murder of a Filipino domestic helper in Al-Khobar, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The victim, whose name is being withheld by the DFA, "was taken to the King Fahd Hospital by the Red Crescent after the same found dead in the kitchen of her employer's residence."

She had "knife wounds in her neck, abdomen and arms, as well as an axe buried in her mouth area, arms and legs," said the DFA.

"A near empty container of sulfuric acid was taken from the scene by the [Saudi] authorities," the DFA also said.

Embassy representatives had "met with the Saudi police and the victim's attending physician, who said it was impossible for the Filipina to have committed suicide by stabbing herself and ingesting acid at the same time."

The acid ingestion caused the victim's death, according to King Fahd hospital's medical staff.

The victim was deployed to the Middle East kingdom on May 31 by Pilipinas Makpower Manpower Resources & Promotions, a Manila-based job placement agency.

The DFA did not name the victim's employer. —Jerry E. Esplanada

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Still no agreement in PAL labor row

By Jerome Aning

AFTER SEVEN hours of conciliation talks, the Philippine Airlines (PAL) management and the association of flight attendants could not come close to reaching an agreement on their collective bargaining agreement (CBA) to last three economic benefits, retirement age and the maternity and pregnancy leave concerns.

"The NCMB (National Conciliation and Mediation Board) really cannot force either party to agree on anything. They have to agree on their own," Ortega said.

He said the PAL management representatives, led by PAL President Jaime Bautista, insisted on the company's P60-million offer to the economic provisions of their old CBA with provisions to address sustainable wage distortion and fair allowance distribution.

The PAL officials were not available for comment. They did not give a press briefing.

Plane baby's mother hunted; adoption seen after 3 months

THE BABY BOY born on a flight from the Middle East to Manila and abandoned in an airplane trash bag will be put up for adoption if his mother is not found or declared unfit, a government official said yesterday.

The baby named George Francis after Gal Ato's flight code GF, was doing fine, sanitized clearly by nurses and social workers while authorities searched for his mother.

Officials have identified a person who occupied a blood-stained seat on the plane but are still verifying if the 3-day boy's mother, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman told The Associated Press.

"He is well. He takes a lot of milk, but he is being observed because there was a bump found on his head. But so far in the report from his checkup now, his condition is good," she said.

The six-pound, nine-inch boy was discovered Sunday when a security officer on the overseas carrier's cargo area saw a bag in one of the trash bags that were carried from the plane. He opened it, tilted through the rubbish and found the newborn wrapped with tissue paper and covered in blood.

The story evoked pity and outrage around the world. The infant – still attended to the placenta – was taken to an airport clinic, where doctors and nurses cleaned him, gave him a checkup, wrapped him in cloth and clothes and warmed him under a light bulb, airport doctor Hinda Tesoro Aguas said.

Gal Ato spokeswoman Katherine Barcenilla told the AP that no one on the plane reported anything unusual during the flight. The Bahrain-bound airline said the baby was discovered by an airplane toilet attendant, suggesting the mother gave birth in the bathroom during the flight.

Doctors who attended to the baby said he looked Filipino, fueling speculation in the local media that the boy's mother could be a domestic worker in the Middle East. About one in 10 Filipinos works abroad, many as maids and laborers in the Middle East.

According to the law, it takes at least three months to declare a baby abandoned and start the adoption process. In this case, even if the mother is identified, she will have to be convicted in court if she is a suitable parent, Soliman said. What she did is "an inhuman act of her inability to take care of the child," she said.

Soliman also said that although the baby looks fit now, he may be given a thorough medical check-up. "If it is confirmed he was born in the Gulf Air aircraft, children born during a flight are entitled to citizenship of a country where the plane is registered, she said.

There was no shortage of prospective parents for the baby, Gov. George Francis.

Soliman said at least 10 couples had contacted her office offering to adopt him.

"We have six pages. We're getting it from the e-mail, we're getting it from the website," she said of the adoption request. AP

GEORGE FRANCIS is the name of airport baby

Home pesticides harmful to unborn babies, says expert

By Cynthia O. Bubas

A UNITED STATES-BASED Filipino doctor who specializes in caring for premature babies or neonates yesterday warned against the use of pesticides and insecticides at home to combat mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria.

Dr. Emerita Quito, a visiting neonatologist and professor of pediatrics at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan, said popular insecticides such as Baygon and Raid mosquito coils contain toxic compounds such as propoxur and pyrethroids which are harmful to humans, especially to the unborn and children.

Instead of relying on pesticides, Quito recommended preventive measures to reduce the problems of mosquitoes, flies and roaches at home such as the cleaning of insect breeding grounds, proper cleanliness and the use of screens.

"There should be judicious use of pesticides, particularly home pesticides. Avoid spending of pesticides should not be done by pregnant women and children," he said, citing local studies that showed that high exposure to pesticides could be detected in the hair, stool and blood of newborns.

The study, entitled "Fetal Exposure to Environmental Toxicants and Infant Outcome," was was released by Ortega and associates in 2003 among 806 pregnant women at the Bataan Provincial Hospital in Maloles who had reported the common use of pesticides in their homes and farms.

Quito, a visiting professor of the University of the Philippines-College of Medicine, said the study showed that "the higher the exposure to propoxur, which is a component of Baygon, the more significant the effects on the motor development of the child."

Quito spoke at a weekly health forum organized by the Philippine College of Physicians in Quezon City.

According to Quito, Baygon Mosquito Bomb Killer, for example, contains the toxic ingredients cyfluthrin (75 percent) and propoxur, while mosquito coil Raid has bioallethrin (26 percent).

"Pesticides are toxic to the brain and the nervous system, and the fetal brain is highly vulnerable to them," Quito said.

He said that the developmental quotient was significantly lower for children who were exposed to pesticides and lower intellect while inside the womb. Among the possible adverse effects of pesticides on children are autism, learning loss, and abnormality in chromosomes that could lead to leukemia (chromosomal disorders).

Asian bird fair in Davao

BIRD WATCHERS, conservationists and ecotourists and eco-tourism lovers from all over the Philippines, host of Asia's first region-wide bird festival this month.

The first Asian Bird Fair will be held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City from Sept. 24 -30 to coincide with the 8th Philippine Bird Festival, the country's premier avian conservation and ecotourism event. The milestone event is coinsured by the Philippine Eagle Foundation and the Davao City government.

Will Rio Quid of the Philippines promoter Mini Lo, said the theme this year is "Nurture Nature, Save our Future," an initiative shared by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Quezon Will Bird Federation, Will Bird Society of Taipei, Malaysian Nature Society and Indian Society Omnipotent.

The Asian Bird Fair, which highlights bird festivals of the participating countries, aims to enrich eco-tourism through bird-watching, and promotes the natural and cultural heritage of host cities, Lo said.

Activities include a forum, tours of the Philippine Eagle Center and Eden Garden Sanctuary, bird-related and presentations. There will be fun activities like a guided tour at low tide of the Island Park in front of the Waterfront Insular Hotel where participants can have a closer look at marine species like fiddler crabs and mudskippers, as well as enjoy spectacular views of herons, egrets and shorebirds.

Alice Villa-Real, chair of the organizing committee, said the event will help draw attention to pressing conservation issues.

"We can protect the rich bird life and their habitat while promoting responsible enjoyment of nature and encouraging related sustainable businesses in the host communities," she said.

1,000 IN METRO IN 6 DAYS

Dengue cases shoot up

By Nico Calleja and Jocelyn R. Uy

DI. A spate of six days, the number of dengue fever cases tied up by central 1,000 cases in Metro Manila, stepping more public hospitals with new patients.

The Center for Health and Development in the National Capital Region has recorded 1,099 new admissions in government and private hospitals between Sept. 2 and 8, said Elizabeth Antiola of CHD's surveillance epidemiology unit.

Some health officials believed the dengue epidemic, peaked last month with a drop in cases from 402 recorded from Aug. 25 to 31, to 304 from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4.

But Antiola said the peak is likely to be this week in Dengue cases are expected to start falling until the third week of September, she added.

Upward trend

"The trend is upward and likely to peak some time between Sept 19 and 25... The number kept increasing but was not abrupt and I told you," Antiola told the business.

Antiola, a nurse, is a member of the team of CHD which collects data about the dengue-to-date dengue fever and alerts local governments about the clustering of cases in their barangays.

CHD for 7,304 cases in the metropolis in as of days, 9, most were recorded in Quezon City and San Lazaro Hospital. Other that were found to have clustering of cases are Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Marikina, Pasig, Quezon, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque and Muntinlupa. Fourteen-eight deaths have been reported.

Clustering of cases means a barangay has three or more cases in two consecutive weeks. There barangays 176 barangays (Tatalon and Kamuning in Quezon City) and 174 in Caloocan and Barangay 16 in Valenzuela) have been declared dengue "hotspots" for having more than three cases in two weeks.

The CDH, however, noted that the number of cases in Metro Manila this year is still lower by seven percent compared to 2009.

100% increase

Nationwide, health officials have monitored 77,012 dengue fever cases from January to Sept. 4, a figure already double those for the same period last year.

According to a monitoring report of the Department of Health released yesterday, this year's dengue cases represent a 108.8 percent increase from last year.

Total deaths from the disease, however, are down at 543, or 0.80 percent compared to 1.1 percent for the same period last year.

In the past seven days, no dengue cases were recorded in Cagayan Valley, Davao, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Caraga Region and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The number of cases seemed to be declining in Western Visayas, Soccsksargen, Calabarzon, Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

Earlier, Health Secretary Enrique Ona said the health agency was not recommending declaring a state of calamity because of the already declining trend in cases nationwide.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 15, 2010
Holy Week in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Responsorial: Lk 2:33-35 or Jn 19:25-27

We fathers and mothers wondered at what was said about the child. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "See now, he will be for the rise or fall of the many people of Israel. He shall stand as a sign of contradiction, while a sword will pierce your own soul. Then the secret thoughts of many will be brought to light."

Commentary

"Standing close to the cross were his mother, his mother's sister and Mary Magdalene."

These people met at all the crucial turns of the cross.

These women, determined and alone, stood by the crucified Jesus to the end.

In whose avenue of service or vocation or in the events are we willing to stand to the end?

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Mang Inasal celebrates another milestone

Now employs 10,000 Filipinos; A Partner in Nation-Building

Amid the exemplary achievements and selfless works of charity he has established in the recent years, Injap continues to be fueled by the drive to help fellow Filipinos.

When you are asked of a "Tatak Pinoy" fastfood restaurant that grows amazingly like mushrooms in different key areas of the country, there is no doubt that the name Mang Inasal would be your answer. Indeed, there are a lot of equally notable restaurants in the country. However, it is only in Mang Inasal where we truly feel the Filipino culture and ambiance.

In this era where we feel we have lost our sense of identity, Mang Inasal has kept us sane by serving us delectable Filipino food with renowned Filipino hospitality. True enough, Mang Inasal has become a source of pride and inspiration to every Filipino.

Mang Inasal is doing its share in alleviating the unemployment burden of the country through providing employment opportunities all over the Philippines. Currently, it is employing over 10,000 Filipinos systemwide, and is aimed to employ twice the current number in the next three years. Edgar 'Injap' Sia, II, Chairman of Mang Inasal, says that of all the milestones Mang Inasal has achieved so far, it is being able to provide decent employment to thousands that he finds most fulfilling.

Injap proudly discusses that the overwhelming support of the Filipinos for Mang Inasal is heartwarming. "It humbles me to know that Mang Inasal has become an instrument to positively touch the lives of my countrymen. With the phenomenal success of Mang Inasal, I have already reached my personal commitment but I am still working hard, no longer for myself, but for the good of others."

The administration of President Noy has revived our optimism that our common vision of a transformed Philippines is no longer an impossible dream. That is what gives Injap the fuel and drive in making Mang Inasal an essential tool in nation-building.

Supplier

It was in 2005 when Mayor Malunes began his bamboo barbecue stick business in a bid to help Masinlo's farmers deal with the over supply of bamboos.

Every week, Bella Kawayan Marketing (BKM) delivers an equivalent of a thousand bamboo poles coming from six communities who in turn employ more than 100 households to cut and process the three types of bamboo barbecue sticks used for barbecuing chicken legs and other parts, and the round and thin ones for the pork barbecue.

The first supplier of BKM, 33-year-old Shirlie Molina, was able to make two children graduate from college all because of the income that comes from supplying bamboo sticks.

"We are thankful for the opportunities that Mang Inasal has given us; they have helped so many families," says Molina.

"We are also doing our best to keep up with Mang Inasal's brand of quality services and with their expansion, we will also look for more bamboo farmers and suppliers and entrust those who are already working with us," says Mayor Malunes.

However, the greater source of pride for Mayor Malunes and Masinlo's bamboo suppliers is their being a major partner of the country's leading fastfood barbecue chain that has remained loyal to them.

Franchisee

A year after graduating from La Salle Bacolod in 2003, Arian Chua took a care-giving course with hopes of working abroad shortly following graduation but circumstances did not permit.

Thinking of his options, Arian planned to get into a business but was not sure exactly where to begin.

Not one to be impulsive, Arian observed how Mang Inasal did business in its newly opened branches in the cities of Davao and Iloilo, checking sales and feedback and found it to have great potential.

"Five years back, I received conflicting opinions about Mang Inasal's potential in the future. But I still followed my guts and decided to franchise Mang Inasal. Now, the company is very successful and has helped us many, including franchisees like me!" shares Arian.

Together with his partners Tiffany Ang, younger brother Richie Chua, and friend Michael Jardines to create stockholders, they finally decided to franchise Mang Inasal.

"I am grateful to Injap and Mang Inasal for the good break. I am impressed with how the company has reached its dreams and has more than exceeded expectations," says Arian.

Employee

He was there during terrible shooting when Mang Inasal first opened at Robinsons Place Iloilo last December 12, 2003.

Bobby Calumpita, 41, is Mang Inasal's first and longest staying employee to date. Such is his loyalty, good work ethic and competence at troubleshooting.

Bobby intends to remain with the company he has grown to love until he reaches retirement age.

Prior to his employment as Mang Inasal's first store manager, Bobby was a dining supervisor and then banquet manager at Peter Stevens Hotel, Chairman Siao other business that he started with partners when he was only 19 years old.

In the nearly seven years that he has been employed with Mang Inasal, Bobby has been able to lend for his family with the debut of his five children graduating with a degree in Management Accounting from the University of Iloilo and now also watching for Mr. Sia.

"Sir Edgar has a good leadership style, he trusts his people well," says Bobby who only has words of appreciation for the company and for him.

TOP TAXPAYER AWARD

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

Healing, not gimmicks, will bring HK tourists back–DOT

LIM

By TJ Burgonio

MORE job to do to repair the country's image awarded by the Aug. 23 hostage-taking fiasco?

Not quite, said Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim.

Lim yesterday told lawmakers that his job was to attract foreign tourists, but the tough task of repairing ties with other countries belonged to the Foreign Affairs Secretary. (See related story on Page A18)

He also said the Department of Tourism had no marketing strategy to lure Hong Kong tourists back, adding that all that could be done right now was to let the healing process take place. Meantime, the department was looking for new markets.

"You know with all due respect, I think that's the job of the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs," he said when pressed by Tambako Bato Mitoga Magsaysay on how he would repair the country's image.

This prompted a pointed remark from Magsaysay: "You cannot point to the fifth because you are in charge of bringing the tourists into our country and whatever policy and statement made by the Prime Minister affects the tourist influx in the country."

No budging

Lim did not budge and reiterated that: "We are the recipient of the impact of those things that happened but I can only do my job as Department of Tourism Secretary to attract them. It is up to our diplomats to repair the diplomatic ties."

The secretary came under a barrage of questioning by lawmakers over the efforts of the tragic hostage-taking incident in Manila on Aug. 23 when he presented his department's proposed ₱5.303-billion 2019 budget.

The hostage-taking drama ended after 11 hours with the hostage taker and eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

After the incident, tourists from Hong Kong and China cancelled tours to various Philippine resorts, reportedly resulting in ₱40 million losses.

Lim took some time to reply to Magsaysay's queries about the DOT's marketing strategies to lure back tourists from the former Crown Colony, before explaining why there was no such strategy.

"We believe that we should not immediately go to Hong Kong and ask that market to come back. We should improve sympathy first so the first step in curing the problem," he said, recalling that the DOT initiated candle-lighting ceremonies for the victims in Manila and elsewhere.

The investigation by a Hidalgo-led criminal committee which could hold some officials accountable for the crisis could help too, he said.

Unsatisfied

Magsaysay was unsatisfied and pressed Lim on what he really planned to do to attract tourists again to achieve their goals, quotas and targets.

Lim preferred his reply by saying "Let me try this," drawing laughter from the lawmakers and guests. "We are focusing on other markets because we do not think that we can have the Hong Kong market to come back. So we are focusing heavily on other markets to replace what we lost in the Hong Kong (China market)."

"If it is something that has to heal naturally other values we will go back and through quiet diplomacy we will work with the Hong Kong and Chinese market. We are getting indications that it is already beginning to heal and we have already started to work quickly."

Despite the crisis, Lim said the DOT was making early inroads in target of raising tourist arrivals by 12 percent.

The department is targeting 8.1 million tourist arrivals, ₱5.48 million in tourist receipts, and ₱7.074 Filipinos employed in the industry by year-end.

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Correction

IN THE SEPT. 13 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo misnamed the grand prize in Sunday's chord-dance competition of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines. The grand prize was P5,00,000—not P300,000.

Readers may send their response for correction/clarification if written by the Day Desk Philippine Daily Inquirer, PSE Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig, Metro Manila; Mail Day, fax line, 897-4-02-29; e-mail address dailydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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STOCK MARKET VISIT

Noynoy rings bell for return of bulls

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday led the corporate sector in trumpeting the return of the bulls at the local stock market, which is now trading at new record highs and witnessing a larger share of foreign funds flowing into Asia.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) yesterday soared to a new intra-day record high of 4,811.37 before closing by a marginal 4.37 points, or 0.11 percent lower to 3,969.39, as investors pocketed early gains after a nine-day rally.

The conversion remained high among foreign investors who have started to heavily put chips into the local market only recently, fueling the appreciation of the peso against the United States dollar.

As he rang the ceremonial bell to mark the opening of the day's trading, 5th Aquino told PSE brokers and some of the country's top businessmen to join him "in wishing for more happy days to come for our stock market."

Investor confidence

PSE chair Hans Sy said 10th Aquino's direct toward good governance and efforts to promote market and economic growth had elevated up investor confidence in the country's financial markets.

Since the end of June when the new President was inaugurated, from 3,795.99, US$6.6 in wealth was created when measured by the increase in domestic market capitalization.

The first visit by the President to the exchange has heightened optimism in the economy and affirmed his support for the business community, said PSE president Val Antonio Suarez.

"These are times foreign travel escorts and unlike before, the thing (last's good) now is that we have a very active domestic market which the foreigners want to see," he said.

Market movers

Among those who joined Mr. Aquino at the PSE were top businessmen leaders like Ayala Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, SM Investments Corp. president Hortensia Sy, Banco de Oro Unibank chair Teresita Sy-Coson, and Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co./Metro Pacific Investments Corp., and CEO of the Manila Electric Co.

Ernil de Quiros, the newly appointed president of the state-run pension fund, the Social Security System, an influential institutional investor in the stock market, took the oath of office before the President.

Sandigan tells Imelda to return ₱10M

A SPECIAL antigraft court on Thursday ordered Imelda Marcos to return P10 million stolen by her late husband from the Philippine food authority.

The 81-year-old member of the House of Representatives and the ruling party-list group Kabayan will appeal, her lawyer Robert Sison said.

"The case was filed when the Marcos family was abroad, and there was never an opportunity for them to file proper pleadings," Sison said.

The Sandiganbayan said it found the widow's late husband, former president Ferdinand Marcos, ordered the board of the National Food Authority to transfer the funds to the dictator's bank account in 1983.

The food authority is responsible for importing rice.

The court also said Gloria of civil cases faced by the Marcos family (in years after the dictators was ousted in a bloodless popular revolt that ended his two-decade rule and chased him into US exile, where he died in 1989.

Lawyer Estelita Moreno is the legal representative of his estate. The court ordered her to return P10 million, and pay accrued interest and legal fees.

A court clerk said the verdict was handed down on Sept. 8, but was only publicly released this week.

Ferdinand Marcos is accused of having stashed billions of dollars from state coffers that have remained hidden to recent bank accounts abroad.

Imelda Marcos returned to Manila in 1991. After a failed presidential bid in 1992, she won a seat in the House of Representatives in May, while her son, Ferdinand Jr., won a Senate seat. AFP

Noynoy seeks meeting with SC chief on budget

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday asked the country's trial court judges to stop their plans to go en mass leave over reports that the judiciary failed to get an increase in its budgetary allocations under the proposed 2011 budget.

Mr. Aquino said it was not true that the judiciary did not get an increase. He said it was proposed that the judiciary get a budget of P14.33 billion next year, compared to P13.31 billion this year.

He also said it was his understanding that the judges already got substantial increases a few years back.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, in a separate statement, said the judiciary also had its own funds from docket fees and other court collections that comprise the Special Allowances for Judges and Justices (SAJJ) and a Judicial Development Fund (JDF). The creation of these funds led to 100-percent increases in salaries of judges from 2004 to 2007.

Mr. Aquino said he is seeking a meeting with Chief Justice Renato Corona to iron out differences in interpretation of the laws on the government's salary structure.

"On the leave, I hope they are not going to do that," President Aquino said in a news conference after the PNP turnover ceremonies in Camp Crame.

"They are a very necessary function and I'm sure most if not all of them are very upright individuals who would want to do well as service to the people, and this can be threshed out as a misunderstanding of the pertinent laws," he added.

"That's the impression I have been made to understand: they have been getting what is due them under the pertinent laws," Mr. Aquino said.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad yesterday said the Aquino administration is open to a dialogue with the judiciary on its concerns on its proposed budget for 2011.

In a statement, Abad said Republic Act No. 9227 passed in 2004 caused the salaries of justices and judges to increase by 100 percent in tranches from 2004 to 2007.

"This 100-percent increase is compensation foreseen by the law as compliance to future increases in salary when the government starts improving," Abad said. Increases, he said, would come from the court fees collected for special allowances for judges and justices.

"However, until the judiciary reports to the Department of Budget and Management how much has been collected by the SAJJ, it is difficult to determine if it has enough funds to cover its requirements," Abad said.

In answer to Abad's last remark, The Supreme Court yesterday insisted that it has been cautious in its collection and disbursement of the SAJJ, adding Malacañang should not use this issue to block the high court's proposed budget for 2011.

GMA wants ARMM split into 2

FORMER PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants to divide the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) into two autonomous territories, saying this would be hopefully the decade-old conflict in the south.

Arroyo, along with her son, Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo, has filed House Bill 715 covering two Muslim Mindanao autonomous regions.

In her explanatory note, the former President said that the political subdivision was needed to address "geographical constraints that pose an immense challenge in governing the ARMM."

The ARMM is composed of the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Maguindanao—Shiite, Basilan and Tawi-tawi—and the Central Mindanao province of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, and Marawi City.

Arroyo said the Central Mindanao provinces are landmarked by areas inhabited by "settler indigenous and ethnic groups," referring to the Ilanun.

She is thus proposing the creation of two autonomous Muslim regions—the Autonomous Region in Southwestern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Central Mindanao.

Michael Lim Ubac

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Puno refuses to name 'jueteng' emissaries

By Rizalt Pepe

MANILA, 15 The new of Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno to refuse to name names.

Amid saying "jueteng" operations used his relatives, friends and retired police officials as emissaries to get to him to talk about continuing the operations of the illegal numbers racket, Puno refused to name the emissaries.

"I'll no [Not anymore]," Puno said when asked if he could name the emissaries.

But he did reveal some details. "Some of them are relatives. There are government officials. There were even priests sometimes. Some were friends of friends...they used all sorts of ways to get close to me."

Puno said he did not see the need to have the emissaries arrested. "Why should I have them arrested? Maybe they were just sent to talk to me. They were just going to talk to me. In that any violations of the law?"

He added that he was waiting for retired Linguayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz to give him the list of government officials allegedly collecting jueteng payoffs.

But Puno added that he would need more evidence to effect arrests of those involved in illegal gambling. "If it's just a name and there is no evidence, then how's that? This might boomerang on us."

Puno said he promised Cruz that "if there is evidence against these people, we will file cases against them. If there is none, I will introduce my intelligence group to gather evidence and file cases."

On Monday, Puno and jueteng operators were unnamed to talk to him about the continuation of illegal gambling from Northern Luzon to Southern Tagalog.

Over the weekend, Cruz said two officials of the Aquino administration were collecting P2 million in jueteng payola every month. Later, he said there were five more officials involved.

Verzosa didn't heed Malacañang order to stop 'jueteng' operations

From page A1

reasons] [DILG] until the President," the official said.

The lawyer, however, never spoke. "There was no answer, no response. No actions [taken] by the top police official," he added.

Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno also allegedly received similar letters and was "confounded" on the matter but had denied any link to the illegal numbers racket.

The official said "[the need to stop jueteng] had been taken up [several times] among PNP and DILG officials."

This was even before retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz disclosed that two ranked officials of President Aquino overseeing monthly numbers were getting at least P2 million in monthly payola from jueteng.

Mr. Aquino has knowledge of the letters, the official said.

In a statement furnished the Inquirer on Tuesday, Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said "As early as July, I have directed then PNP Director Gen. Jesus Verzosa to conduct a nationwide campaign to stamp out jueteng, as well as validate reports that the operation of STL (small town lottery[]) is being used as front for the illegal numbers game."

Another document from the DILG estimated that the annual revenue generated from jueteng operations reached P37.7 billion, while the state-sanctioned betting schemes generated only P1.7 billion.

"It said, the government is foregoing around P1.060 billion a year because STL has supposedly failed to curb jueteng." the document read.

On July 30, Robredo issued an urgent memorandum addressed to Verzosa.

"I have received reports of the resurgence of jueteng in many parts of the country. In Metro Manila, jueteng operations have allegedly dropped runner of 2014 and police officials in [an] apparent attempt to dissuade our efforts," the memo read.

"In this regard, may I reiterate the directive to conduct a nationwide operation to stamp out illegal gambling, particularly jueteng and its derivatives, and to submit a weekly accomplishment report to the office of the chief PNP."

Robredo said Verzosa responded with a July 26 memo, stating that "all PNP units have been directed to intensify the campaign against all forms of illegal gambling, particularly jueteng and its derivatives, and to submit a weekly accomplishment report to the office of the chief PNP."

Aquino to Bacalzo: Walk the straight path

From page A1

messages for Bacalzo.

Luis Teodoro of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) and Maria Hilda Enriquez of the human rights group Karapatan told the Inquirer that the PNP under its new chief must exert more efforts to prosecute the masterminds of the killings of political militants and members of the media.

From September 2006 to July this year, Bacalzo headed Task Force Usig, a police unit tasked to investigate the killings of militants and journalists.

"There should be a sustained effort to arrest the masterminds," Teodoro said. "It is really the policy of this government to stop the killings, then the police have a special role. They should investigate and identify both the killers and the masterminds so as to cut to filed. And they should develop strong cases."

Veer away from tradition

Enriquez said the killings had continued despite the existence of Task Force Usig.

"An improvement is if the cases are then swiftly and diligently investigated. We would welcome that," Enriquez said. "We hope he (Bacalzo) would veer away from the tradition of cursory work. Sending out justice starts with the police investigation."

The CMFR listed six media killings in 2006 and 26 in 2009, when the Maguindanao Massacre happened. Four cases of media killings have occurred this year.

Enriquez said 98 political activists were killed in 2008, 150 in 2009 and 17 from January to June this year. Since Mr. Aquino took office, six militants have been killed, she said.

Gambling racket

Days before Mr. Aquino announced he had picked Bacalzo to replace outgoing PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa, 20 unsigned statements had circulated in the press office at Camp Crame urging the President not to appoint Bacalzo as PNP head.

The statement said that Bacalzo had failed the double because he "has done nothing significant to protect our journalists and the families of those who were killed."

The anonymous statement, on a paper bearing the PNP logo, also claimed that Bacalzo was a protector of the illegal numbers racket "jueteng" and was also supposedly involved in illegal drugs.

No evidence was attached to the statement to back up the allegations.

The statement was distributed in the name of the previously unheard of "Justice officers of The Philippine National Police."

Substandard equipment

Bacalzo told reporters that the work of Task Force Usig would continue under his watch. "We need to strengthen the task force," he said.

Mr. Aquino appeared to dismiss the allegations against Bacalzo.

"I am with the ministry in repealing General Bacalzo. He has a very promising professional aim, integrity, discipline and value to the ranks of the police," the President said in his speech.

"But the skill of a leader would be useless if the needs of his troops remain unfulfilled. It is unacceptable (that) many of our policemen remain below the poverty line, still ensnared in rented dilapidated housing," he added.

Mr. Aquino said it was wrong to expect the police to perform well when their needs were substandard and their training inept.

"From guns and bullets, now bulletin to housing, we will make sure that we will satisfy the needs that were left unattended and remain unmet," the President said.

Rise again

Mr. Aquino also vowed: "The enemy alienated by national security would no longer find its way into the pockets of just about anyone. Those days are over. It is now time to pay back with responsible and open service the trust and trust that our countrymen give."

Alluding to the Aug. 23 hostage-taking tragedy at Manila's Rizal Park, where eight Hong Kong tourists were killed in a botched police operation), Mr. Aquino urged the police to "rise again."

"Let us pursue the good things we have started. Let us continue walking the straight path," he said. "These are my (marching) orders to all of you."

Mr. Aquino lauded the "expert leadership" of Verzosa. He indicated Verzosa's retirement wasn't the result of the hostage fiasco.

Mr. Aquino scoffed for his choice of his cabin as view PNP chief.

Letter 'manufactured'

Apparently referring to the unsigned letter critical of Bacalzo, the President said: "I think I will challenge all of you. Look for any change in government and you will see it. It is the AFP or the PNP. There will always be certain quarters that would be grumbling. It's already like a tradition."

"So is it real, as opposed to manufactured? Do men confined to think it's manufactured," he said.

Mr. Aquino said he was not happy at seeing the state of the PNP equipment.

"The Bloodiest will be instituting a reform of the process that will ensure that we get the most value for the money that are spent for the PNP and get what is needed for our personnel—be it equipment, be it training," Mr. Aquino said.

Back to basics

In his speech, Bacalzo said: "We will go back to the basics.... Training and retraining on the basics will be done up and down the ranks. Basic equipment must also be returned for the current policemen as well as the special units for different types of circumstances."

To jump-start his "back-to-basics" approach, Bacalzo said he was ordering the 25-strong police force in his hometown of Boy Batangas, to undergo immediate retraining.

He added that he would push for an improvement in the PNP procurement system.

Bacalzo, who belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1976, is retiring three months before he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Bacalzo is a member of the PMA Class of 1977. After he graduated, he served as company commander in the old Philippine Constabulary and was assigned to Basilan, Cavite City and Western Samar. He finished law at the University of the East and placed 12th in the 1984 bar exams.

During his stint at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region (CIDG-NCR), Bacalzo led in the prosecution of suspects involved in the 2000 Rizal Day bombings that killed 22 people in Metro Manila.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD President Aquino watches as newly installed Philippine National Police Director General Raul Bacalzo exchanges salutes with outgoing PNP chief Jesus Verzosa.

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Civil society wants bigger role in nat'l 'roadmap to change'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BOUND of "more token consultations," civil society groups are demanding that they be included in the drafting of the country's economic blueprint for the next five years, or the Medium Term Development Plan for 2011-2016.

The process "should be opened for people's participation," said Freedom from Debt Coalition secretary general Mi. le Functioning.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), the government's economic planning body, should "live up to the administration's promise of becoming a government that listens and consults its citizens, beginning with the crafting of the medium-term plan," he said.

Civil society groups name day released their own economic blueprint, called the "Citizens' Roadmap for Change" aimed at reducing poverty and meeting the country's Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs.

The IDC, the Unicef of its evelopment NGO Network (Code-NGO) and the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Council (UN-CSAC) said the roadmap was drafted with the participation of of more than 100 civil society representatives from Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

It was presented yesterday to Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, who represented President Aquino, and Neda Assistant Director Cleofe Homena.

Solitario and Medicina and citizens' groups would be consulted in the making of the new MTDP.

According to Code-NGO executive director Isaac Donato Macasaet, with only five years left to the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millenium Development Goals, there is an urgent need to fasttrack the achievement of the Philippines' MDG targets.

"President Aquino cannot have as a legacy the failure to attain these goals," said Macasaet, noting that the country was behind in some of its MDG targets.

The MDG are the eight international development goals that all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. They include eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development.

The key policy recommendations in the civil society groups' roadmap include the repeal of the lawcalling for automatic appropriation for debt service; automatic appropriations for education, health and housing, equivalent to 6 percent, 3 percent and 5 percent of gross domestic product; pursuing "prudent budget deficit financing" and a pro-school system in all public and private schools; increased Philhealth coverage, among others.

In an earlier conference, Code-NGO, PDC and UN-CSDC presented their proposals to top officials of the departments of budget, labor and employment, agrarian reform, and environment and natural resources.

RP sailor kidnapped

BRUSSELS—A Belgian dredging company says armed men attacked one of its ships in a Cameroon port and kidnapped two crew members, a Croatian and a Filipino.

Jan de Nul Group says in a statement its dredger Amerigo Vespucci was attacked in the Port African nation's commercial capital, Douala, on Sunday night.

Monday's statement says the crewmen's dredging "everything to restore the safety of the crew."

The company says it is not clear where the armed gang came from and does not mention whether a ransom has been demanded.

Nobody was immediately available for comment at the company's belgian offices. AP

"TROOPING THE LINE"

TRAFFIC enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority march in formation for inspection at the Fort Bonifacio parade grounds in Taguig City on Sunday. MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino "trooped the line" (rhumba) of MMDA traffic personnel, the first such thing since he assumed office. —

Civil society wants bigger role in nat'l 'roadmap to change'

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Priests getting 'jueteng' money, says Cruz

From page A1

sponsored Small Town Lottery (STL), which is supposed to replace jueteng.

Cruz earlier said that seven archbishops are accepting bribes from jueteng operators. Two of the officials, in charge of overseeing seventy mayors, were getting at least P2 million a month, according to the archbishop.

Since there has been a change in administration, his group is still monitoring whether the "system" has shifted, the archbishop said yesterday.

Rural banks

Cruz said that his group uncovered a financial data bank master sheet charged funds to rural banks.

He said rural banks were a female ground for clandestine transactions because they don't usually ask for detailed documents from clients.

Malacañang has asked Cruz to name names, but Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who has called for a Senate probe of jueteng, said the government should be the one identifying the officials involved in the nationwide racket.

Big load

For his part, the archbishop assured that that he would not reveal the names of officials accepting payoffs personally but that the congressional probe appointed Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno was already a "big load."

He said the Police should find out for itself who among the secretary of Sec. Jesse's official family is receiving payoffs for protection.

Puno, who admitted on Monday that he had been offered jueteng bribes already but a load that would help the ulanders deportment branch to oust jueteng, protein and massive other officials accepting payoffs, said Cruz.

Mr. Aquino's problem

Mr. Aquino expressed frustration with Cruz's claims as he reiterated doubts about the identities of the alleged jueteng payoffees he said he is ring.

"You know the problem. I have with archbishop Cruz is that I have to respond to him but...I have yet to receive sorry all honestly any claim or information," Mr. Aquino said in a news conference after the PDP Laban convention in Camp Crame.

"And, I perhaps find it odd his [archbishop's] that it is primarily up [until] him to outlaw the lines," he added.

The President said he was told that the correct position upon the past Philippine National Police chief, retired Director General Jesus Verzosa, before about the proliferation of jueteng but got no satisfactory response.

Correct information

Apparently in response to Mr. Aquino, Cruz said he does not have the information his group sets getting from the field sin- tight.

He explained how his People's Crusade Against Jueteng was depending information from the field. The group has at least two to three persons, who do not know each other, in every district or baton and Visayas.

To make sure that the information used remains the same-to, provided by volunteers. "These people don't compare notes. We [group's officials] are the ones who compare notes," Cruz said.

"We will say 'Yes, this is it' when the information is confirmable, verifiable and substantially the same information, coming from within or without. Otherwise, we don't say so," he said.

Won't appear in probe

Cruz announced that he would not appear at any congressional inquiry into his claims, repeat because he said nothing would come out of it.

"We had been in (the House) and the Senate before. For three weeks ... we provided them names, how much 'gambling lords' were getting... but look at what happened. Nothing," Cruz said, extending resource men.

He called on Malacañang, particularly Puno, not to wait for the Senate and the House to look into his disclosures as "this is a matter for the executive department to dig into it."

Cruz said Puno must use the ex-general who had relieved him of duties on the belated claim of Puno that received jueteng lords had roots to influence him.

Act of bribery

Santiago said this was clearly an act of bribery and Puno should have arrested them immediately.

"If it is true that he has been approached by jueteng lords, why did he not lock and screen immediately? Those lords who allegedly contacted him are guilty of the crime of corruption of public officials," she said.

Santiago said this was proof of the emergence of jueteng in the country. With reports from *Norman Bordadora* and *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz says during Tuesday's forum that he won't listen if a government official will say "jueteng" lords.

INTERIOR Undersecretary Rico E. Puno is also not willing to the "jueteng" undertakers are.

'Jueteng' in North, 'swertres' in South

From page A1

ses, "lint two" and "lint two," which are based on the STL results.

In Mindanao, a retail version of the "Sweepco" Lotto betting is the most popular, covering the number, allusions and evening lottery draws.

Jueteng collectors and supervisors interviewed by the Inquirer showed that the number rackets did not really stop in every of provinces in the Bicol, Cagayan Valley Cordillera and Central Luzon. Some illegal operations have intensified after the May 10 elections.

STL = jueteng

On Monday, at the Pampanga capital in the City of San Fernando, "Dogi" mingled in the crowd, smartly help-workers, and hopped from one office to another, getting bets for what is now a the STL.

He did not want an identification card indicating that he is a collector of bancoro, one of the STL agents of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The long strips of yellow paper in one building were marked with "STL last digit" in red ink.

He did not issue receipts for bets. A bettor, a capital employee, just scanned at accepting a small piece of paper where Dogi wrote the pair of number he chose. At any day, eight collectors make the rounds of the government offices there.

"The jueteng is lacking in the form of STL," Fr. Mario Roque said, adding that both the latter and jueteng have the "same effect on the people and society."

Chief Supt. Aleu Pacatang, Central Luzon police director, said it was difficult to distinguish between jueteng and the STL. "Mainly, the process are. (This will be a big process). This will need lots of personnel to check on the IDs (of collectors)," he said by phone.

In the last week of August, the PCSO announced an audit of STL income from its 22 agents throughout the country on the basis of reports they were underreporting their collections to other income funding of the government.

Possible abuses first came up against in Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Isabela and Pampanga from January to June amounted to P9 billion, a PCSO report showed. Total sales reported by tax agents was but only P440,260,062 in the first half of 2010, or other income funding of the government.

In Bulacan, a former bet collector in the Iskan town said that despite assessments during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, jueteng did not really stop in the province.

A bet collector in Obando town said the STL is not widely held in Apalit, Pampanga, three times daily.

But Senior Supt. Reynaldo Villanueva, Bulacan police director, said what police were receiving an report of "STL bookies," not jueteng.

Uninterrupted in Bicol

In Bicol Region, jueteng operations in Camarines Sur and elsewhere have never been interrupted since President Aquino assumed power.

A bet collector said jueteng draws were being conducted in Camarines Sur for seven days, except on declared holidays.

"In the past, operators and managers would immediately alert us to stop collecting bets because of transmitted collecting draws. But no harvests been notified of any suspension since the elected," said Mariong Iona, a bet collector.

The area where the draws are held would be moved from time to time not to "irrite police- men town but to avoid the ban from residents who are against illegal gambling, he said.

In Pangasinan, Major Benjamin Lim of Dagupan City said jueteng "has been here since time immemorial" before the police were brought to legalize it. "And I think everybody should be courageous enough, honest enough and frank enough to say that it's difficult to stop," he said.

Asked if jueteng draws in Dagupan, Lim described it as "on and off." He said the city police validate the jueteng draws and the money being collected in the city but draws were being done somewhere else.

'Everybody happy'

A former jueteng manager in eastern Pangasinan town said operations were stopped in the 10 months after the early election. The "beneficiary" of jueteng is that "everybody is happy," he said.

Of the collection in the town, he said the mayor gets a 6-percent share; the police, 2 percent; the *cabo* and his 4 division, 21 percent; "unbooted" is entrusted to remind officials, governors and representatives in order to jueteng operations, 12 percent; and managers 1 percent.

The remaining 50 percent goes to the management including payment for jueteng staff, prize money for "incidental expenses" like prizes money for media workers, the manager said.

When he was working for the operation, the manager said the daily collection in his town was between P120,000 and P480,000 for the three daily draws. "During the ghost [four months in agricultural areas], the collection could go down to P120,000 but will peak up before the harvest season," he said.

But the total collection for each draws in some cities and urban areas could reach as high as P980,000.

Mayors' payola

The manager said mayors were be said to have been receiving payola from collections, plenty of supporters will seek employment from them."

In Olongapo City a former bet collector said the numbers racket are thriving because "you can still be count wins of making money."

"We were like we're selling illegal drugs or something. It's frustrating, and everybody gets a payola from it," he said.

He said the operations of the STL and jueteng in Olongapo were "actually run by the same person. Jueteng is well connected to the police and the local government. "So, however, and the rule of the jueteng operations in Olongapo and Zambales were nowhere near those in Pampanga and Pangasinan.

"Here, it's just small independent operators—or a few of them working together—as financiers or operators. They have other legitimate businesses ... Jueteng and the STL are just ways of making money for these people and they can probably live without it," he said.

In Isabela, Diocesan Bishop Joseph Tobias urged government and police officials to do their job in stopping jueteng. "It is the government's duty. Addressing right reasons, to such that can not do about not, "he said.

Chief Supt. Brendelo Michael Polanco, Cagayan Valley police director, said his area has been underperform in their campaign to stop jueteng and would soon release a report on the names of operations against illegal gambling in the region.

Hagan/Sup. Teodoro Bagtalon Jr. said his province may be jueteng-free but votes for collection from neighboring provinces would go to his province.

Visayas

The STL bet collection acting on behalf of illegal operators have been reported to Guimaras and Iloilo, which were not covered by the STL franchise in Iloilo City. The further would not know that the operations was illegal and that the winners were paid by the illegal operator.

The draw results are based on the STL results, according to Supt. Ronnie Bonito, Western Visayas police spokesperson. Collectors get 10 percent while 50 percent of the total, while the illegal operators keeps the rest, he said.

Police officials in Bohol and Cebu City admitted the proliferation of operators, which is based on the Swertres Lotto of the PCSO.

But Chief Insp. George Wanan, head of the Cebu City police's investigation and detection Management Bureau (CIDMB), said only a small percent of the city residents bet on swertres and even "maniac," which is based on the results of jai alai games.

Jueteng is also present in Eastern Visayas, but not as widespread as in other parts of the country, according to Senior Supt. Manuel Abella, regional police director (Region 8).

Police have collections in Tacloban City, explained that the gets 30 percent of the P7,200 average collection each night, while the rest goes to the operator.

All bet collectors are now required to a "receipt," which the declined to identify, from the STL agents in the consolidators. A bet of P5 could win P2,000, she said.

Mindanao

In the Zamboanga Peninsula and Southwestern Mindanao, operators bets are collected by "runners" who would make the rounds in business and other districts, particular the daily draws containing the number combinations and their corresponding bets.

The shorts are "remitted" to a coordinator, who consolidates the bets for a certain territory or network of cohorts in behalf of a financier.

Chasing police crackdowns, the betting goes electronic. A bettor sends a text message to the unlicensed operations by phone, and the tally sheets to the coordinators. In some cases, the bets become "collectibles."

In the retail or number version, a peso wins P400, while in a PCSO racket, a peso wins P450. BOR are the same results in the PCSO draws.

Senior Supt. Edwin Descampo, police chief of Zamboanga City, said investors' operations guerilla-type, especially in the eastern boundary. Financiers come from Zamboanga Sibugay and Lanao-sur districts, he said.

In Caraga, investors operations are limited to the Surigao del Norte Independent politicians and businessmen.

A PCSO regional official said the rampant proliferation of the numbers racket drastically reduced the agency's revenue by at least 60 percent.

In Southern Mindanao, the illegal numbers game "laid low" is also popular.

"Last year" gets its winning numbers from the last two digits of the PCSO's lotto results; a P10 bet would win P700 or P680, Dimitry Orejas, Gerardo Reyes, Robert Gonzaga and Armand Galicinao, Inquirer Central Luzon; Volmar Mendoza Jr., Cris Quinones and Maurice Malanes, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Nestor Burgos Jr., Florence Hermosisima, Jorge Gubaton and Axel Armata, Inquirer Visayas; and Ryan D. Rosauro, Julie L. Alipala, Rachel V. Ernst and Evandale Caligyad, Inquirer Mindanao.

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Medical nightmare: Superbugs

Front page A1

in India for medical procedures.

Here many deaths the germ may have caused is unknown; there is no medical tracking of such cases. So far, the germ has mostly been found in bacteria that cause gut or urinary infections.

Scientists have long feared this—a very adaptable germ that hitches onto many types of common germs and evolves broad drug resistance, creating dangerous "superbugs."

Just a matter of time

"It's a great concern," because drug resistance has been rising and few new antibiotics are in development, said Dr. M. Lindsay Grayson, director of infectious diseases at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

"It's just a matter of time" until the gene spreads more widely previously, he said.

Grayson heads an American Society for Microbiology conference in Boston, which was buzzing with reports of the gene, called NDM-1, and named for New Delhi.

The US cases centered this year in people from California, Massachusetts and Illinois, said Brandi Limbago, a lab chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three types of bacteria were involved, and three different mechanisms let the gene become part of them.

People's actions

"We must physicians to look for it," especially in persons who have traveled recently to India or Pakistan, she said.

What can people do?

Don't add to the drug resistance problem, experts say. Don't pressure your doctors for antibiotics if they say they aren't needed, use the ones you are given properly, and try to avoid infections by washing your hands.

The gene is carried by bacteria that can spread fecal to mouth, which makes good hygiene very important.

It's also why health officials are so concerned about where the threat is coming from, said Dr. Helen Boucher, a microbiology professor at Tufts-New England Medical School.

India is an overpopulated country that overuses antibiotics and has widespread diarrheal disease and many people without clean water.

"The ingredients are there" for widespread transmission, he said. "It's going to spread by plane all over the world."

The US patients were not related. The California woman needed hospital care after being in a car accident in India. The Illinois man had pioneering medical problems and a urinary catheter, and is thought to have contracted an infection while the gene while traveling in India.

The case from Massachusetts involved a woman from India who had surgery and chemotherapy for cancer there and then traveled to the United States.

Last line of antibiotics

Labs can discern their genes were not killed by the types of drugs routinely used to treat drug-resistant infections, including "the last-resort class of antibiotics that physicians go to," Limbago said.

She did not know how the three patients were treated, but all survived.

Doctors have tried treating some of these cases with combinations of antibiotics, hoping that will be more effective than individual ones are. Some have resorted to using polymyxins—antibiotics used in the 1950s and '60s that were unpopular because they can cause kidney.

The two Canadian cases were treated with a combination of antibiotics, said Dr. Johann Pitout of the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. One case was in Alberta, the other in British Columbia.

Both patients had medical emergencies while traveling in India. They developed urinary infections that were discovered to have the resistant gene once they returned home to Canada, Pitout said.

The CDC advises any hospitals that find such cases to put the patient in medical isolation, check the patient's close contacts for possible infection, and look for more infections in the hospital.

Any case "should raise an alarm," Limbago said.

Last month, Philippine health officials said the "superbug" was not yet a cause for concern for the country.

"If anything, it should serve as a wake-up call to all of us to be more judicious in the use of antibiotics, which could give [illegible] the ability to make inquiries. We should also take good care of our health," Dr. Joseph Leclaca, executive assistant of the Department of Health, said in an Inquirer interview. *Reports from AP and Inquirer Research*

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OPINION

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On the hot seat

THE BROADCAST media are taking a beating for their handling of the hostage incident last Aug. 23, and rightly so. What Chinese-Filipino community leader Teresita Ang-See has labeled as "interference" in the negotiations with the hostage-taker, dismissed Senate Rep. Rolando Mendiola, easy have drowned the eight Hong Kong Chinese hostages who died when the negotiations broke down. All indications point to the fact that uninterrupted broadcast coverage of the tense negotiations had allowed the hostage-taker to monitor just about every police move to stop him. Police officials involved in the negotiations said Mendiola suddenly stopped and started shooting when he saw from the TV monitor inside the bus that his younger brother, SPO2 Gregorio Mendiola, was being arrested and bodily taken to a waiting police car.

Editorial

Of course, the police should have seized in the media's blow-by-blow coverage of the negotiations in the first place, but the overnight scan pin for the cesarte for a Manila police force that's the 21st century reinvention of the ideas like our Keystone Kops.

But even without the PNP's historic knee-jerked ways, the broadcast media's conduct that fateful day was a recipe for disaster. This could be gleaned from the remarks of the broadcast journalists who were invited to the inquiry headed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. Radyo Mo Nationwide (RMN) and TV-5 said they broke no law in covering the incident, which was a case of double-talk since no law not even national security law forbids TV and radio from making a 24/7 coverage of a hostage situation. Situations of crisis and emergencies are covered by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP) Broadcast Code which was last revised in 2007. The Code provides protocols for "crime and crisis situations," which are good on paper but not in actual practice.

Ironically the KBP leadership has quickly dissolved TV and radio. "We believe they have adhered to these standards," a statement on its website says. And on broadcast ngayon has awarded ay to heralding the growth in the industry itself has set in the topic of self-regulation even if the breach was written in blood.

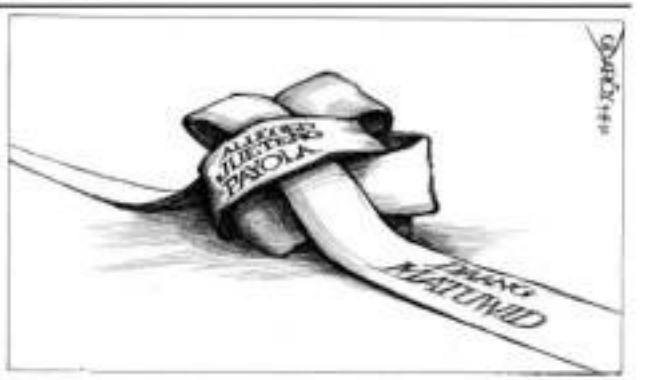
One can therefore understand Ang See's anguished grilling of representatives of the broadcast media last week. She asked them if they were aware that they were forbidden by their own rules to have contact with hostage-takers. Erwin Tulfo defended his radio station for calling the hostage-taker and airing the interview with him, explaining that they merely wanted to determine the condition of the hostages. Even if the broadcast media were merely performing their job of public interest, but it was obvious that they were used by Mendiola to air his gripes and justify the hostage-taking.

Ang See said the interview tied up the line at a critical time when negotiators were trying to get to Mendiola aside from enabling the hostage-taker to "grandstand" and make "propaganda." She noted that Michael Rogas of RMN was interviewing Mendiola when the hostage-taker was about to explode after he saw his brother being taken by the police. She said Rogas repeatedly asked Mendiola what he would do next, which was tantamount to inciting the hostage-taker to start shooting.

Meanwhile, Susan Enriquez of GMA-7 said she was able to interview Mendiola but the network didn't air it because of its policy. But we wonder what sort of policy it was that allowed her in the first place to interview the hostage-taker. Obviously it is a policy that is not as tough as the KBP Code which forbids contact with a hostage-taker during a crisis situation. When Enriquez didn't tell the inquiry was that GMA doesn't follow the KBP Code since it's not required as a member of the KBP, it only drew from the KBP several years back rather than face sanctions for alleged commercial overloading.

And that's the problem. Commercial considerations far outweigh concerns about public safety. Tulfo said as much: "The problem is, we are all chasing ratings, exclusivity. My colleagues may not admit it, but that was the main thing: getting an exclusive aspect." In short, the ratings war and its underlying impetus, the profit motive, doomed the victims of Aug. 23.

The broadcast media have indicated they would review their conduct. GMA-7 this week issued new guidelines on hostage coverage, which among other things, state: "The safety of personnel, the public and those directly involved in the incident is paramount." If only because Aug. 23 should not happen again, such a declaration should be encouraged. Better late than never.



How to defeat 'jueteng'

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WE MAY soon have a shortage of peso bills. The British fear that prison-run currency is having printing problems with its special security paper. In La Isla, the world's biggest non-government printer of bank notes, warned last month that sales would be hit by quality problems at one of its paper factories.

The currency paper manufactured at its main plant in Overton in southern England is having problems. Is roaring goes to it after installing security features push-off forcing the production itself. Revenue of this its share prices dropped more than 11 percent and its chief executive officer, James Hussey, who had worked for the firm for 25 years, resigned "to take responsibility" for problems "of a serious nature" at one of its paper mills. The paper mill suspended production of a special type of paper which is printed on Canadian dollar bank notes.

The Philippines reserves half of its print bills from De La Rue. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is also changing all our peso bills with a new set, according to be supplied and printed by De La Rue. The BSP's Security Printing Complex in Quezon City cannot print all our bank note requirements and has been outsourcing half of our peso bills. The BSP has failed to upgrade the plant since it was set up in the 1980's.

Current pronouncements by the BSP for modern currency designs and implementation under the Aquino administration will require, most, if not all, of the printing to be made by La Isla. If De La Rue, a situation that could have been avoided had the BSP pushed through with its upgrading program.

The BSP has twice postponed the opening for bids for the supply of modern, printing equipment. The plan to upgrade the plant that Ramos initial since BSP Gov. Amado Tetangco took over in 2005. The BSP head, assistant BSP governor Evelyna C. Avila, resigned last May because of the neglect of the plant.

In 2003, a Hong printer made a grievous error in the printing of a P1000 bill signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Her name was misspelled as "ARROYO".

Adding to De La Rue's woes, India refused to accept currency paper shipments from it because of uneven production standards that could compromise the quality of printed rupee notes.

Last July De La Rue sold an Indian importation unit which went to London that it would not be able to dispatch any shipment because of quality problems. The board was not allowed to make quality checks.

The 100-year-old seventy paper maker and printer supplies only 150 world currencies and the quality issue can have an impact on its operations.

For India, the problem is bigger as a shortage of the 1a that supplies could trigger a shortage of rupee notes. India normally keeps a six month stock of blank currency paper. But if its biggest supplier is dogged by production problems, it would have no option but to find another supplier. This won't be easy because other manufacturers would have tied up production schedules at the start of the year. The other option would be to cut back on note printing.

Security agencies say any scarcity of notes can be exploited by Pakistan's bare devotees to influence to push to more economic bills. They said the ISI appears to have been able to buy paper with security features and print fake notes.

* * *

The government's plan to kill illegal jueteng is to propagate a legal jueteng, the Small Town Lottery (STL) of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The STL has been with us for years, but illegal jueteng is prospering instead of declining.

The reason is that the jueteng lords are using the STL as camouflage. The cabinders, or bet collectors, for the STL also collect bets for jueteng. When they are caught with bets, they claim that it is for the STL.

The logic that to eradicate jueteng you have to replace it with something else is correct. For the time, jueteng is kept timid for a better life. But a bet of a few centavos, for many was hundreds of pesos. If he doesn't win today, he may win tomorrow, or the day after, or the day after that. Jueteng keeps the hopes of the poor alive. It is with this hope that they are able to survive each day. Remove that hope and they have nothing but despair.

But STL can never replace jueteng. First, jueteng gives bigger prizes because it has more bettors. Second, it has bets or even three draws a day whereas STL has only one or most. Third, because of the huge income, the jueteng lords can afford to bribe policemen, soldiers, local government officials, and even congressmen.

The key is to provide the policemen and LGU officials with incentives not to accept bribes and the bettors to not with the STL instead of the jueteng. How?

First, the draws should be held in public, at the town plaza preferably on days everybody can watch it. It is no secret that there is cheating in illegal jueteng. Draws are made to secretly big bets, never win, only small ones do.

Second, STL should be operated by the local government. Profits should go back to the people in the form of benefits. Bettors would therefore choose STL instead of jueteng because part of their bets would go back to them in jueteng profits go only to the jueteng lords.

Third, policemen and LGU officials and employees should share in the STL benefits so that they can resist bribes from jueteng lords. The more bets on STL the bigger their benefits. That should be an incentive for them to crack down on illegal jueteng because even bet that goes to jueteng instead of to STL would be a diminution of their benefits. The same incentive applies to the bettors.

Stewardesses are not GROs

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE FIRST time I saw it was maybe 35 years ago, at an American Airlines flight. The fellow was a steward, uniformed like the others, even like the others, capable like the others. With one exception. He had was giving his shirt was unbuttoned, and his chest hairs revealed. It figured he must be in his late 60s or early 70s.

He wasn't just polite. He was pleasant, engaging the passengers in banter, his chest who seemed to humor. He had a smile for everyone. After a while the novelty of his appearance (for me at least—I don't recall anyone else either passengers or air crew of) melted and I forgot about the steward, or the cabin, just another member of the crew.

Soon after that, the sight became as common as curious airliners you didn't notice it anymore.

But the big time media came into play when in early in the third one? Why should stewardesses look like the Girl from Ipanema? Flight attendants are not there to serve patrons. They are there to serve passengers. They are not there to entertain customers, particularly in their times of their work. They are there to help customers, particularly in their times of distressed.

That is the question Bangs (the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines) is asking PAL (Philippine Airlines). That is the correct thing is getting PAL.

For while it is indeed a matter of safety.

Try known Bangs for about a decade and a half now and known it to be one of the most reasonable unions in the world. That is the reason for its success. It does not rush headlong into strikes. It does so only after exhausting other means. Other unions would do well to learn from it. Nonsensitiveness is its middle name.

The working conditions of its female members suck. That is the core of its issue. That is the reason it has severed a union to strike. It has nothing to do with more pay, more allowances, more benefits. It has everything to do with basic, fundamental, elemental justice. Two thirds of Bangs's 1,364 members are women.

Two things in particular Bangs wants to change.

The first is for PAL to scrap its de facto policy of terminating pregnancy for flight attendants. There is no other way to put it. You are a PAL stewardess and you get pregnant, you get to file a letter of absence without pay. The leave amounts to close to a year, given the two months for normal delivery and three months for caesarean you are required to take afterward. That period is taken away from your number of years of service. If you get pregnant three times in the 10 years that you work for PAL as a flight attendant, you will register only 17 years served.

That applies only to flight attendants. It's different for the ground crew. They may work till they are about to deliver, have their 60 days paid for by the Social Security System, and come back to work shortly afterward. None of it is taken away from their record.

What makes the policy exceedingly laughable—it's the kind that makes you cry—is that male flight attendants who take a paternity leave do not have their leave taken out of their years of service. The policy is clear: You are insecure if you get your wife (or mistress) pregnant, but guilty if you pretend to get pregnant.

Bangs in fact is simply asking for the period of pregnancy not to be discounted from the flight attendant's years of service. The rest—what pay or benefits she should get in the course of her nearly one-year leave—remains subject to negotiation. You can't get more minimum than that. What Bangs would like to know from PAL is, Other unions would criticize Bangs for being too reasonable. PAL is screwing it of being too out of its mind.

Well, both has a way of coming out... Seven days more than others. Quite simply, the flight attendants' notice of strike-action notice.

PAL is not Pegasus, and flight attendants are not CBAs.

Crisis showed fragility of Aquino administration

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE 45-DAY hostage crisis came on the 545th day of Benigno Aquino III's presidency, in the middle of his first 100 days. It broke out while he was counting along on the momentum of his landslide election in May. It marked the turning point of his administration and put to a severe test his ability to cope with the dangers that lurk in the international terrain. From that landmark, President Aquino closed the first stage of his presidency, a period that was marked by setting the moral tone of his administration.

His Inaugural Address is memorable for its strong point in appointing men and women who have on the setting sung, the virtue framed by society of officials who wanted to move ahead of the traffic. He lowered the boom on corruption with the dictum, "If no one is corrupt, no one will be poor," which he said was the "defining principle that will serve as the foundation of our administration."

More than 45 days into his administration, these two themes are still resonant to the Filipino people. The wrong-wing ban was not enforced by a presidential edict, but it still commands public obedience because people perceive it as an example of rules being followed by the rulers. This is the point where the two ideals meet.

The Inaugural Address defined the ethical values of the new government. It pledged that it would be honest, it would not steal from the public coffers, and it would not enrich itself. It took office not to plunder or to loot public wealth.

The initial test for the Aquino presidency that differentiated the new government from its immediate predecessor, his government since Word Fist It has made a more emphatic commitment to enforce corruption and plunder as inviting crimes.

The first half of the 100 days of the Aquino presidency can properly and accurately be defined as a period of setting the moral tone of government. And so far, the new administration has not been reproached by lapses in governance and has not been accused of any irregularity.

But running the government is not all about honesty and declarations of good intentions. Then the Aquino administration is encountering other growing problems over its competence in coping with emergencies, the theme of its key men and their competence in responding to unexpected contingencies (for example, the hostage-taking fiasco), and not least its ability to provide leadership and direction during crises.

It is hard to fault the government for giving priority to anti-corruption platform and its determination to prosecute officials of the previous administration for alleged corruptions. It is confronted with the tough economic issues related to the national deficit as well as whether it must hike the children's tax rates already scaled by the VAT and to finance infrastructure development in the face of revenue collection shortfalls.

The fragility of the Aquino government was exposed by the disarray of his Cabinet in its response to the Aug. 23 hostage-taking and its inability to preserve the chain of order in the Hong Kong tourist-area retreat by a disgruntled Philippine police officer who had been dismissed for extorting money. Its investigation conducted by the Department of Justice has uncovered a deeply flawed arrangement where the President appointed Justice Orlando as secretary of the Interior and local government on probationary basis because he needed time to determine whether the latter's style, outlook and philosophy were compatible with his. This flaw proved damaging because the DILG was a critical department in responding to the hostage crisis as it had control over the Philippine National Police, which was tasked to have handled the effort to rescue the hostages. The crisis had many peripheral fallouts on the country's foreign affairs, as it precipitated a foreign policy dispute between the Philippine government and the Hong Kong special administrative region. This dispute developed into the first foreign policy dispute of the inexperienced Aquino government. With this fiasco, the dear of euphoria over the moral ascendancy of the Aquino government came to an end. The euphoria was destroyed on the inside of growing evidences of policy confusion of the key Cabinet members on whom the President depended for important decisions.

Recently, an apparently exasperated President, stung by the mounting public criticism of the image bundling of the crisis by his Cabinet and the Philippine National Police, was prompted to say in a press briefing that he would soon purge his Cabinet and senior bureaucracy of "underperforming" officials—a term that goes back to him as owner of the Philippine who have given him a laudable rate are beginning to rate him as an "under-performing" president.

In the Philippine Quarterly Update (June 2010), the World Bank reported: "The Philippines' economy posted robust growth in early 2010, in part due to large one-off factors. As the heavy contributor to the region, the Philippines has offset from a strong rebound in global trade."

The challenge of increasing growth can be met only by corporate economic management that does not rely solely on revenue-short measures—of which there is an abundance in the Aquino administration.

Dengue panic

LAST SATURDAY I brought my daughter to a hospital for a medical consultation. While we were waiting for the doctor, I suddenly felt a mosquito bite on my hand. My daughter was sitting next to me and I almost instinctively got her to sit on my lap while swatting my arms around her, to shield her from mosquitoes. I also began to check her arms and legs for mosquito bites and felt a tremendous relief when I didn't find any.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

We were waiting in the corridor as there were many other patients preceding by, and from time to time, I would feel, considering I am one of them bad dengue. It got to the point where I thought to myself, "Doon't I this hospital hospitals in existence".

When that thought crept into my mind, I chastised myself, realizing that I was being irrational, because just the previous day I was explaining to my family why Extinction might do more harm than good as we try to control dengue.

The discussion was triggered by a phone call I received from a family friend, an older woman with asthma. She was distraught and was practically wailing as she explained that her neighbor's daughter had been confined in a hospital with dengue mosquitoes. The first bugging had started a few days earlier and almost immediately the family friend said, her asthma attacks had worsened as the smoke invaded her home.

This family friend is single, living only with household help, so she worries constantly about her asthma, fearful that she might be found unconscious in a serious attack. She went to the neighbors to ask them to stop and they responded by fumigating again. She went to her physician to get a certification about her asthma being quite serious, and that attacks could be life-threatening. The neighbor persisted with daily fogging.

The family friend was calling me for medical advice but for help to find another home in more info. She had decided there was no way to argue with the neighbor. Neither were there legal measures she could resort to, so her solution was to rent a house, hopefully with a more neighbor.

Superstition

There's serious dengue panic going around, and it's making neighbors turn on one neighbors in the most unkind ways.

I agree, totally, that we need to be concerned about dengue, but we need to be scientific and rational about bringing it under control, and the compulsion to fumigate is one of those modern superstitions that needs to be, well, fumigated.

Back in 2005, when there was a very serious dengue outbreak, my parents' subdivision instituted community-wide fumigation. They were on circulars announcing the fumigation but giving us the option to decline, which I thought was silly because once fogging starts, the houses envelope the entire community.

Only a few days before the fumigation, Dr. Eric Tayag of the Department of Health had announced fumigation was of very limited usefulness. He was quoted in the papers as saying that fumigation would only drive mosquitoes elsewhere.

Fumigation against dengue is an example of the irrationale "out in my backyard" mentality. We keep our premises clean and then we fumigate to drive the dengue-carrying mosquitoes away to another backyard. It's similar with fumigation, where we drive away the mosquitoes from our lot and into the neighbor's home or, in community-wide spraying, into the next neighborhood.

I advised my parents to decline the fumigation offer, not that I noticed any ill effects on them, as I prepared this column, I checked with Dr. Norma Dando, a toxicologist (expert on poisons), and she confirmed that the mosquito spray could exacerbate asthma and cause other respiratory problems.

Back in 2005, saying no to fumigation simply meant the biggest mould and cockroaches in our house. And they would still fumigate the streets, including the space around your house. After the fumigation, the acrid smell of the chemical lingered into our house. I don't think it was my imagination that our dogs and cats ended up quite listless for a few days. In that there were no birds that came in the first two days after the fogging, and I noticed that the usual birds that would be competing for the bird seed, my parents put out for them, it took almost a week before birds, incidentally very efficient natural pest controllers, returned in full numbers.

Infants

In the 1990s when I was working with a health NGO we had a project studying pesticide poisoning, funded by an expat Dutch consultant assigned to us. The work was mainly on agricultural pesticides but our Dutch expat kept reminding us that even household sprays had their dangers, expressing shock at how casually Filipinos use the chemicals in homes. While in the Philippines, he and his wife had a baby and they were astonished at how casually Filipinos in their social pound more danger to the child than the mosquitoes. Dr. Dando, who is also a pediatrician, did remind me even insect repellants should not be used on infants, and with children up to two years of age, they should be used with great caution.

It is so many words then, fumigation is much like offering incense to the gods: it just doesn't help, except to create a false sense of complacency. It distracts us from more urgent measures that do work, mainly shoring our living and work environment daily in case if there's stagnant water waiting to become mosquito breeding places.

Over at UP, where I had a meeting with our college student council, the topic was the proposal of a Bahpond on our college grounds might breed mosquitoes. I explained the pond had fish, which would eat up whatever larvae didn't kill that developed.

Dengue lives on many misconceptions, as well as biases and prejudices. We fear the squatters, or patronize neighbors who can't afford to fumigate, and we panic easily, and fail to see how we own neglect of our homes, schools and offices, and the reliance on fumigation contribute to the outbreaks.

The government campaigns to keep our premises "clean" can be misleading. What they mean is that besides getting rid of stagnant water, we should also keep our premises, which provides moths and roaches for mosquitoes.

Be thorough in your search for possible mosquito breeding places. I remember a few years back being stunned about breeding places popular in upper class homes. The home finds crushed efficiently, their leaves holding water to keep them fresh for a few days, but that can be dreadful breeding for dengue wire.

The household are stocked of cases, compared to empty cans and bottles. I once saw a backyard full of empty wine bottles, including expensive brands. I'm not sure we want to hear about getting dengue from a bottle of Shiraz or Chardonnay.

Slogans and epidemics have been known to bring out the best, and the worst, in people. The current dengue outbreak reminds us of how social responsibility, or its lack, can interact with a tiny mosquito to prevent or spread not just dengue but many other unforeseen health problems.

P-Noy, Puno and the Archbishop

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOUDINI, WARS to his crusade against pawang, retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz has become something of an authority on this illegal numbers game. Memorable were his testimonies in Congress where he testified in the shooting reels of jueteng in both cities and provincial towns. For its three years of the Arroyo regime, he words seemed to fall on deaf ears, and despite periodic declarations of "war" against gambling lords, jueteng and other illegal forms of gambling proliferated.

It was his exposition and dogged opposition to jueteng that earned archbishop Cruz headlines and loud noisy curses when he declared in public forums that at least seven officials of the Aquino administration were accepting at least P2 million a month in bribes from jueteng lords.

The amount of the payola is enough to send jaws dropping in the floor, but the allegation that these amounts were going to "trusted" officials of an administration that had promised to run the straight and narrow was more than explosive.

And when local Roman Catholic sovereignty in Aquino country to have contributed in at least last evidence to the claims of the prelate when he said that jueteng operators had used friends and even relatives as conduits to approach him about cooperating with them and perhaps turn a blind eye to continued operations.

Puno's claim that he turned down all these approach does little to quell our fears. He may have had the moral—and even political—backbone to turn away from the easy and lucrative offers, but how about others within P-Noy's orbit?

* * *

P-NOY's revelation that the gambling lords had used "retired policemen, politicians, friends and relatives" as conduits in making a connection with him, an acknowledged "inside" to P-Noy's inner circle, raises questions about the extent of the jueteng lords' reach, and how many within that circle have been compromised. After all, Puno, to whom the President assigned the role of overseer of the probes, made known the intimate proximity to him early after Archbishop Cruz went public. If an one had spoken about the alleged involvement of Aquino officials in jueteng, would Puno have been so forthcoming?

The President's instant reaction to the archbishop's revelations is discouraging, to say the least. "Name names," P-Noy dared the retired prelate, in an overly terse off-the-cuff line dropped by President Ilocos Municipal Adviser and other officials whenever confronted by accusations of malfeasance. Next time, he might even be as bold as to utter the by-now classic line: "Sige'll sue you in court."

If indeed he is half-beat on following the "abang matuwid" as he promised during the campaign, then the least that the President could have said was that he would conduct an immediate investigation and summon all those under suspicion.

* * *

FOR HIS part, Archbishop Cruz was heard on TV replying to Puno's challenge to, again, name names, that it was now up to government to flush out the identities of the officials since it was the government that had both the funds and the investigation bodies to conduct a thorough probe.

Both, in his view, are right. But Puno, equipped such a handshield and spraying shotgun of weapons not only among Aquino officials but also among the public, the least the archbishop could do is assist in identifying the horseless shadows figures. If he, too, after all, is to call a halt to the rampant jueteng menace, and not just the symptoms of it, then he must feel no less intelligent to the drive to flush out officials hopelessly compromised in the service of gambling lords.

In an another face pat, P-Noy told the media that in his mind, jueteng was not as serious a problem compared to drugs and corruption, to which he was going top priority. But Mr. President, there are so many problems crying out for your attention, and so many some are more important than others in the grave power matrix of priorities. Jueteng, drugs, corruption are also rooted in the same malaise of moral weakness, and when you appear turning you appear as well the vulnerability of police and officials to money politics.

* * *

PAREL, friends and colleagues of Dina Antonio, executive director of Teach Foundation in Cagayan de Oro and chair of the Filipino Hospice in that city, was laid to rest yesterday morning at the Divine Shepherd Memorial Garden in Bulua, Cagayan de Oro. Many colleagues and teachers of Dina's couldn't stop crying as the sons made up a large part of those who came to bid Dina goodbye.

Dina died when the SUV she was riding collided head-on with another vehicle in Lanao del Norte. She and her companions were there to cover a Teach Philippines project. The accident was unavoiding, the sun was, who was driving the van, is still confined in a hospital and has undergone major surgery on his jaw, left leg and thigh. The other passenger, Bing Lucuda who is also with Teach, suffered only minor injuries.

A stalwart of civil society in Cagayan de Oro and environs, Dina spent some years in Manila when she agreed to head the Women's Action Network for Development. To this day, I still can't believe that we will no longer have Dina among us where members of Filipino causes and soup are our activities and the positions we would like on national issues. Even calm and reasoned, Dina could nevertheless be quite impassioned about the causes she valued.

Be in Filipino would like to thank everyone who remembered Dina, prayed, and sent donations for her burial arrangements and Mayo medical needs. I am sure that Dina, who divested her life to the betterment of the lot of the poor and advancing the cause of women, would appreciate how her community rallied around him at this difficult time.

Crisis in Malolos

LOOKING BACK

Andrew F. Gyaviola

THIS MONTH'S my grade school classmates, Jun Duggay Ravada, will be a versatile in the historic Barasoain Church to commemorate the opening of the Malolos Congress 112 years ago on Sept. 15, 1898. The founding fathers gathered in the church and, after many debates, discussions and documents, ratified the declaration of independence from Spain that was made in Kawit on June 12, 1898. Against the advice of Apolinario Mabini, the revolutionary congress formed a congressional assembly and ratified what is now known as the Malolos Constitution.

All this may be ancient history for us, but Barasoain is doubly significant to Senator Estrada because his father took his oath as president there in 1998, following the example of Emilio Aguinaldo a century earlier. Unfortunately, the president of the First Philippine Republic did not finish his term. The same was true with our 13th president. With this kind of history associated with that church, I don't think any future president will take his oath in Barasoain as each of us has his and history.

Don't think any future president will take his oath in Barasoain as each of us has his and history.

Our unexplained fascination with Jun Estrada and broken dreams. Malolos is remembered because it is one of the high points in the story of our nation. We remember the Malolos Congress and the Malolos Republic but forget the internal struggles that would cause its untimely demise. Teodoro Agoncillo couldn't have put it more simply than the title of his landmark book "Malolos: Crisis of the Republic." Unfortunately, when you look history wise to point an inspiring picture of Malolos, academic historians remind us it was not a purely picture.

Just like in the harsh analysis of the recent hostage crisis, it is easy for us today to look back on the past and spot the mistakes of the founding fathers without the benefit of hindsight and perspective of time. When we commemorate the highlights of the Malolos Congress, we tend to ignore its low points, the parts of the story where we can learn so much

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NFA: It's now or never!

LETTERS

THERE IS a reason why the news article titled "PSE more by passive of the poor," (Inquirer, 9/4/10).

The Department of Budget and Management and the National Food Authority are taking the rice-buying crisis of rice subsidies and NFAs precarious financial condition by the horns, so to speak.

The need for corrupt rice for the poorest of the poor families following those designated for our government, by taxing to 40% debt-riddled condition, the private sector was allowed in the past to import more rice. The Department of Agriculture wanted to produce more to our own backyard use.

The Department of Finance acknowledged as the 50% account for the biggest drain in rice finances. P42 million in 2007, $3 billion in 2009. The figures are shocking for 2010, P172 billion.

In view of the gargantuan problems and leakages, plans were drawn to overhaul the grains agency and to cut the rice subsidies price once tolerable. But the plans never took off, and the years remained on the drawing board.

In mid-April 2010, the Philippines was a beneficiary of loans from the Asian Development Bank, amounting to a total of $270 million. These loans were meant to fund an ambitious Grains Program, as conceived by ADB, to reform the rice subsidy program, and to ensure the farmers' profitability of rice production. Under the program loans, the government requested the ADB in April 2010 to stop further releases; and in June 2010, ADB notified the government on the cancellation of the undisbursed loans. What went wrong?

ADB's non-involvement based on GSL [illegible] reserves to P9 billion in 2007 from only P30 billion in 2006, and to expand effectiveness ratified from P1 billion in 2006 to P46 billion in 2007—a leader's nightmare! Is this considered a "public service function"? The deficit for 2008, 2009 and 2010 could be staggering.

Worse, the grains agency's inventory level figure is P9 billion in 2006 then P6 billion in 2007, despite the magnitude of its liabilities in 2007, which was three times bigger than in 2006. Where have all the sacks of rice gone?

According to reports, the issue is considering the NFA to now in the hands of lawmakers. Where is the appropriate time to act? Perhaps, it is now or never.

—MANUEL E. BONDAD
manuelbondad@yahoo.com

LOGAL Government Secretary Jesse Robredo attends the Senate hearing on the botched hostage-rescue operation at the Quirino Grandstand.

Resignation, no sacking, in Contemplacion case

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DE AES statement on "Quezon City Government's tourism crisis" (Inquirer, 8/30/10). Ramon Paredes said, and quite compelling exercise do it, that Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo "has to go." As an example, he cited the Thai Contemplation case as the reason "President Fidel V. Ramos called two Cabinet members, Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and Justice Secretary Franklin Ebdane."

In fairness to the officials concerned and as an the record straight, kindly note that in their cases, the two Cabinet members mentioned assumed responsibilities and voluntarily resigned from their respective positions even before the start of Chief Executive's investigation of the case.

The matter of Chief Executive's resignation is quite different from

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Breeding civet cats for coffee

By Maurice Malanes
Correspondent, Benguet

BY OCTOBER, some of the Arabica coffee beans in Agoho Ohbita's two-hectare farm will start turning cherry-red, the right color showing the perfect timing to gather the prized product.

But Ohbita won't employ people to gather the ripe beans. He has 65 civet cats to do the harvesting.

The civet cats, locally called "musky," eat a mixed diet of insects, small mammals and fruits, along with the coffee cherry part of coffee choices. But they don't digest the inner beans, excreting them instead still covered in some inner layer of the cherries.

Ohbita's helpers will then gather the excreted, undigested and intact coffee beans, which they wash, dry and process into one of the most expensive and sought-after coffee varieties in the world.

To ensure top quality, coffee experts advise that farmers should harvest only the perfectly ripe, cherry-red coffee beans and should not mix the undesirable in the storage. Civet cats do exactly that.

"As a coffee brewer, they select only just pick the juicy, cherry-red beans in the middle of the bunch," says Ohbita.

New business idea

Ohbita's encounter with civet coffee and civet cats began in 2008, as a farmer-initiated business leader. Ohbita had been frequenting Metro Manila, exhibiting his Baguio-Benguet furniture items at one of the Ayo venues, including the World Trade Center there.

One time, at a coffee shop in Makati City, a P300 cup of "civet coffee" on the menu aroused his furniture maker's curiosity. He ordered one and, to his surprise, the tightly priced brew came in a small cup, not in a mug as he had expected.

There must be gold in this kind of coffee, he thought. So he searched the Internet and found that Indonesian farmers have been selling "kopi luwak" or civet coffee.

With the growing difficulty in countering for timber for his furniture business, Ohbita reckoned that it was time for a business shift.

From some earnings, he invested on a two-hectare upland property in Benguet. He planted more than 5,000 seedlings of Arabica coffee in 2003, along with bananas and some fruit-bearing trees.

He later fenced off the farm and, beginning 2005, he placed there a couple of civet cats, subsidizing pet food-ignorant hunters.

Taking pity

Ohbita's effort rises on one man's fanatic, which a Kalinga farmer gave him. While traveling in Kalinga to buy civet coffee droppings, he saw a caged civet cat with a severely injured thinking at the farmer's house.

He took pity on the animal, which the farmer gave to him. He nursed and fed the animal for months until it recovered.

Many Igorot people have civet cats, which some consider pets in their farms, but Ohbita convinced some of them to either sell or give to him their tiny cats. He eventually bought a male to accompany the first he had.

The females soon gave birth to three kittens. To avoid spread that Ohbita was interested in civet cats, Igorot farmers and hunters from east and west of the Cordillera and in Ifugao with the focus would bring and sell to him their cats.

"Some hunters would bring injured civets, but I would still take them, counting their wounds and feeding them with fruits and coconut milk, since most to regain their health," says Ohbita, a native of Gangan, Ifugao.

The civet cats in Ohbita's farm come from Kalinga, Ifugao, Benguet and La Union. Besides, there are Ohbita, which are the products of breeding in the farm.

He is so that the first Filipino to breed civet cats in a farm. A few are breeding the animal in cages, but not in a farm.

Instant civet coffee

Since 2007, Ohbita and his aides have been collecting less than 100 kilograms of beans for

CIVET CATS, locally known as "musky," in Agoho Ohbita's coffee farm in Benguet, help produce the civet coffee, one of the most expensive coffee varieties in the world.

CIVET CATS prefer the perfectly ripe, cherry-red coffee beans, ensuring the quality and unique taste of civet coffee.

Batac's pioneering 'empanada' maker

By Cristina Arcadio
Batac, Ilocos Norte

GLORIA Adriano Cocson made "empanadas" to raise her seven children, but she turned out feeding the community with what became an iconic Ilocano meat and vegetable pastry.

Cocson began kneading her empanada dough recipe at 20, a skill she learned from a cleaner in Laoag Bank in 1962, only seven empanada makers, mostly elderly women, sold the delicacy in the old public market in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Then the youngest maker, Cocson competed with the more skilled vendors and hoped to earn to invest in feed her family. She was solely raising her children after her husband left them.

She started her business in market corner in Batac, pleading her cooking secrets of a Japanese lolo inspired by an umbrella.

Nearly five decades later, she now runs four malls, two of which belong to her daughters, Gloria. The child occupy more than half of the Batac Fiestaside Empanada building that the city government built for its famous product.

Her other daughters also set up no empanada business with her boyfriend in La Union.

"There is no competition among family members. I trust all them to have their business of their own. If I was able to share my skills with other people, all the more that I could teach my children so they can earn their own living," Cocson says.

Cocson has been credited for

GLORIA'S "empanada" has become a staple of Ilocano cuisine that largely to Gloria Cocson's pioneering effort.

pushing the delicacy to the level of a microbusiness even that food cooperatives.

"I use my business on loan. I would get my supplies through credit. Once pay them back once I earn my profit. I really don't have a capital to speak of," she says.

Cocson was given a Lifetime Achievement award in 2008 by the entrepreneurial Gaming Foundation for her contribution to the enrichment of Ilocano heritage.

The lively 4-foot food vete gives a significant place in Batac's history, being an industry that made the city distinct and by bringing huge revenues for the local government.

It has become an income provider for residents, most of them farmers. Residents have been continuing the Empanada Festival every June since 2005.

Now 68, Cocson says business was better when there were few competitors and even with a snack as plain as shredded papaya and mongoloan wrapped in an orange-blended cornstarch crust.

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ASIA'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

NUS NUS

Assistant Editor Tony Ilow gimeta

Across the NATION

Hong Kong tourists keep Clark busy despite Aug. 23 bloodbath

By Jove Maliq
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—Despite the uproar on the recent hostage-taking bloodbath in Manila, Chinese tourists from Hong Kong continue to arrive here readily through the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, said Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) president Victor Jose Lacanilao on Monday.

"The exits of Hong Kong and other Asian [sic] countries affected by the [Aug. 23] hostage-taking incident. In fact, we sailed from Hong Kong to fill up by 10 percent compared to last year. What is affected is the outbound travel to Hong Kong. Many Filipinos avoid going to Hong Kong," he said.

On Aug. 23, dismissed policeman Rolando Mendoza rolled a bus carrying 21 Hong Kong tourists and four Filipinos in Manila. Mendoza took the tourists hostage as he demanded his reinstatement. The more than 10-hour hostage drama ended with eight tourists and Mendoza dead in a bungled rescue operation staged by the police.

Favorite destinations

Lacanilao said many Filipinos, whose favorite short-time destination abroad is Hong Kong, are still loath to go to the Chinese territory because of the perceived threat to their lives and safety in the aftermath of the hostage-taking crisis.

"They have reports about the travel of Hong Kong Chinese toward Filipinos because of the hostage-taking incident [on] August 23. They're saying it's unsafe [to] place over there to fly to Hong Kong," he said.

Lacanilao said some 180 Hong Kong tourists arrive at the DMIA here on a daily basis.

Chinese arrivals

Rosalido Tinsayao, General Luzon director of the Department of Tourism, said from Aug. 24 to Aug. 27, 2,238 Chinese tourists from Hong Kong arrived at the airport here.

The figure, he said, was much higher than the 1,067 arrivals during the same period last year.

Tinsayao said the arrival of tourists from other Asian countries and territories like South Korea, Singapore, Macau, United Kingdom and Malaysia remains high.

"[The DMIA] daily] is up an average of 25,000 [in passengers a month," he said.

Tourists from Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea and Taipei are usually seen in hotels, villas, leisure centers and casinos here. They also frequent nearby Angeles City, including the red light district of Fields Avenue in Balibago and Malabanias village.

Hong Kong casino

One of the largest leisure estates here is the 200-hectare Fontana Leisure Parks and Casino, which is being operated by the Hong Kong-based Bloomberg of Companies. Its 2,000-square-meter casino has at least 100 slot machines and about 50 gaming tables. It also has a nine-hole golf course, villas and hotel rooms.

Tinsayao said DOT and Clark airport officials are regularly communicating with owners of hotels and restaurants and travel agencies in Angeles City and nearby areas to ensure the safety of foreign tourists arriving at the DMIA.

He said the Angeles government and police have also assured the safety of tourists in the city.

PLAYTHING
A boat docked on shore in Baseco, Cavite turns into a playground for these boys who pass the time by swimming in canvas-covered sea shores. MIKKO ASTADO

2 more Ampatuans seek removal from raps

CUYAPAMO CITY—Two more Ampatuan members of the powerful dropmuan clan have asked Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to withdraw their petition for detention as accused in the Dec. 23 Maguindanao massacre.

Sahid Ishak Ampatuan, former Maguindanao acting governor, and Saudi Ampatuan Jr., Maguindanao mayor, said government prosecution viewed on April 17, when they were charged, along with 195 others, with multiple murder.

Sahid and Saudi, in a statement on Monday, said the testimony of witness Kenny Dalandag, who had linked them to the crime, "is fabricated and concocted and is patently inconsistent with the panel's own findings."

They cited former Justice Secretary Alberto Agra found Dalandag's testimony to be weak.

Dalandag has also claimed that suspended Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan was present in meetings of Ampatuan clan members to plan the massacre, in which 32 journalists were killed along with members of the Maguindanao family and other civilians.

Sahid and Saudi said Agra ended that Dalandag's testimony was inconsistent because Zaldy was able to prove he was in Davao City from Nov. 20 to 23, 2009.

Agra later reversed his resolution and included Zaldy and the other Ampatuans to the charge sheet.

Sahid and Saudi said Dr. Landay's affidavit is not supported by findings of a government panel, which adopted the investigation report of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), that the convoy of the Maguindanao clan was flagged down at a checkpoint manned by members of the 1508th Provincial Mobile Group in Ilihi Matering, Barangay Salman, Ampatuan town.

The Ampatuans brothers said Barangay Matagbuloy is a kilometer and a half from Salman.

Sahid and Saudi also cited affidavits of 16 policemen of the 1508th mobile group, which stated that the gunmen who murdered in the hinterland.

In all these affidavits, they said, their names were never mentioned.

Sahid and Saudi also said prosecution witnesses PO1 Nasser Ebus and Ampatuan Vice Mayor Saudi Ismail, who attended the trial, they were with Sahid Jr on Nov. 23, also failed to mention their names in their testimonies.

"Then if these are witnesses who could properly identify the actual companions of Datu Unsay [Sahid Jr.], it would be fought until 2014 Ebus," they said. Inquirer Mindanao

SC case that may unseat Jalosjos as gov moves

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Supreme Court is drawing near to resolve the case seeking to nullify the election victory of the governor of Zamboanga Sibugay on the basis of lack of residency.

Reinstated Apolinario Jalosjos, a member of the Jalosjos clan, won the race for governor of Zamboanga Sibugay despite a petition to disqualify him for lack of residency filed by Dan Limolino, chair of Barangay Veteranes Village in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Jalosjos filed his certificate of candidacy declaring Barangay Veteranes Village as his place of residence. Rosales filed the disqualification case on Dec. 7, 2009, saying Jalosjos was not a resident of the village.

On Feb. 11, 2013, the Court en banc reversed the resolutions of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) ruling that Jalosjos failed to comply with the residency requirement because there was no concrete and substantial proof that he successfully changed his place of residence to Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay from Quezon City.

On May 4, 2010, or ten days before the May 10 elections, the Comelec en banc, in a 7-0 vote, upheld the ruling of its second division canceling Jalosjos' certificate of candidacy.

Jalosjos, however, elevated the case to the Supreme Court.

In a two-page full court resolution, the Supreme Court gave Jalosjos, the Comelec and Rosales 10 days to submit written memoranda on the disqualification case. With a report from Aida Alpasa, Inquirer Mindanao

Albay gov on high power rates: Like 'paying for rape'

LEGAZPI CITY—The governor of Albay lashed out the continuing excessive rates of electricity in the province, a major source of geothermal energy in Luzon, saying it was like "paying to get raped."

In Iloilo, the nongovernmental group Coalition from Iloilo Coalition Against Power Rates in the province, that is now being forced to accept coal-fired power plants, as among the highest in the world.

Gov. Joey Salceda said while the province is a major supplier of power to the Luzon Grid through the Tiwi geothermal fields, it suffers from excessive rates as a "perverse consequence" of outdated government policies.

"They siphon off our resources and deplete our geothermal reserves, and yet our people and businesses must harbor theft coal P1.5 billion for it," said Salceda.

The governor, said the province, was billed P1.5 billion recently when it bought electricity from the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) at P 11 per kilowatt hour (kWh).

"It is like paying to get raped," he said.

Since 2005, he said, "Albay has fed Manila and the rest of Luzon with 500 megawatts of the cheapest and cleanest energy and yet, it gets nothing in return."

Worse, he said, Albay has recently been threatened with being cut off from its electricity source as a result of unpaid bills by the Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) to the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), the operator of WESM, which works like a stock market for bulk customers to buy electricity at fluctuating rates from their preferred power suppliers.

Aleco is the only distributor in Albay from its power source was reported either Aleco agreed to raise power rates from P6.56 per kWh to P15.22 per kWh under the deal approved by the Department of Energy.

The Albay Bayong Mayaong Mahalmoon Association called the deal allowing Aleco to settle its power debts in three years but on condition it would increase rates.

Bayan leaders in Bicol said the deal enriched of Edsa mail. They said Congress should investigate relief rates Aleco because they believed the cooperative simply was being mismanaged.

They said the higher rates weren't justified because the source that Aleco was providing its consumers was local.

Salceda described that deal as the simplest the province could get to promote its energy, industry and tourism sectors.

The governor had raised questions on what he said were excessive rates being imposed on consumers of WESM. At one point, Albay was buying electricity from WESM at P55 per kWh because of peak demand. Also by Argyle Cielo and Ray Ale and Inquirer Southern Luzon

Iloilo power rate among highest in world—study

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Residents who have been spending over daily brownouts now to share views daily for months were also paying one of the highest electricity rates in the world, the nongovernmental organization Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC-Iloilo) said.

Quoting a study of retired University of the Philippines to the Visayas professor Fidito Espiritu released Monday, FDC-Iloilo chair Ted Alcibedes Oreg said Iloilo City also has the highest electricity rate among 63 countries based on the price equivalent of these countries' electricity rates.

International rates

The United States only charges P3.82 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) as do other countries such as the United Kingdom (P4.72/kWh), Spain (P6.22/kWh) and Japan (P9.63/kWh), according to the study by Espiritu.

The prevailing rates in other countries were from 1994 to 2002, but Espiritu said in the statement that while the data were at least eight years old, "there was little chance that rates in other countries would be much higher now than they were during those years."

The study also cited consumers of the Davao Electric Company (Davo) have also been charged the highest electricity rate in the country compared to consumers in other key cities like Leyte, Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, General Santos and even Manila.

Davo, one of the oldest private electric firms in the country, is the host electric distributor in the city with at least 68,000 consumers.

Higher than others

Household consumers in this city are charged P12.35/kWh as of August this year. This is higher than the P10.4o/k in Metro Manila, P8.96/kWh for Cebu City, P7.14/kWh in Leyte Electric City, P7.14/kWh in Tacloban City and P8.46/kWh in General Santos City, according to the FDC-Iloilo study.

This means a household in Iloilo with a monthly consumption of 150 kWh will be charged P1,525.95 per month, while those in Metro Manila will pay only P1,344 for the same consumption, P1,109.40 in Leyte, P1,753.05 in Cebu, P1,339.40 in Davao and P1,390.05 in Manila.

Davo operations manager and spokesperson Ronaly Bandolon said he still has to validate the study. However, Bandolon admitted that Iloilo has one of the highest rates in the country.

"We are peculiar because we are solely and exclusively supplied by a diesel plant with feasible Fuel which is more expensive to operate," he said.

He said riders that the company must still charging rates subsidized by the National Power Corp.

Swift SC mercy for Merci, but solons to defy order

From page A1

respond to the order.

"We are supreme in our own sphere of influence," Tupas said in a hastily called news conference, pointing out the legislature's coequal with the judiciary.

He said his committee would proceed with impeachment hearings scheduled on Sept. 20 and 28 and filed Ejercito Estrada Belmonte Jr had been informed of this decision.

In a statement last night, Belmonte said he had yet to receive the court order. He described the Ombudsman's actions as "unprecedented" and appealed "to patience" on the constitutional conflict among the House, the "exclusive power to initiate all cases of impeachment."

"However, as a courtesy to a coequal branch of government, we shall, in the meantime, abide by the court's order," Belmonte said.

He stressed the House would not abdicate its duty. The Commission, he pointed out, commands the justice committee to report on the impeachment complaint within 60 session days from today, the time it was referred to the panel.

COLLISION COURSE The Supreme Court, voting 8-1, stops the impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. Now it faces a challenge: The House rejects a resolution to go ahead with impeachment hearings scheduled for Sept. 20 and 28. AGUIRRE/AFP

One case per year

In her petition, Gutierrez said that the committee's decision to hear two impeachment complaints against her violated a constitutional provision that specifically allowed the initial only one case a time against a public official who can only be fined by an action of congress.

The first complaint was filed against Gutierrez on July 22 for culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust in connection with the fourth and fifth tranche upgrade delivered to have been tendered, seven during a 2008 rally and the botched 6489-CTE deal with China.

The second complaint filed on Aug. 3 cited the Ombudsman's failure to act promptly on the P729-million Antiques scam despite Senate findings of anomalous transactions.

"That is the basis for the issuance of the status quo ante order. There have since already tell us that there was two impeachment complaints filed within one year," Pimentel said.

Four impeachment complaints were brought in the House against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Each year, there was always a queue on filing the papers because of the "one complaint per year" rule. The resolved complainants had the first crack in the door, catching the others napping. Arroyo's dominant allies killed the complaints easily.

Last year, Arroyo allies pushed an attempt to impeach Gutierrez for striking on corruption cases against the then President.

Voting

In yesterday's voting, the lone opposition of President Aquino, Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, voted against the petition, along with Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Conchita Carpio-Morales.

Aside from Chief Justice Renato Corona, those who voted for Gutierrez's motion were Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Roberto Abad, Martin Villarama Jr. and Jose Perez ... all Arroyo appointees.

Four justices—Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Arturo Brion and Jose Mendoza—were on leave and did not participate.

Instead of giving any copies of the resolution, the court harangued the media a two-page notice. This directed the complainants—Zamora, Malaya Rep. Rizo Hontiveros-Baraquel and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan—to submit comments within 10 days.

Marquez said the resolution was just an initial order, meaning that the suggestions had yet to indicate the merits of the case.

"Depending on the comments, the Supreme Court might schedule an oral argument regarding this case," he said.

Marquez said that the status quo ante order did not have a prescription, or expiry, period.

"The court may eventually lift the order or just set the oral arguments to determine if it really has merits to proceed," the court official said.

Not a first

Marquez said the Gutierrez case was not the first time the high tribunal intervened in an impeachment proceeding.

He said the court also stopped the House from wasting the items of impeachment to the Senate for trial regarding the ouster move against then Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

"If the court can stop the impeachment proceedings involving the Chief Justice, how is it can stop impeachment proceedings involving some other officials?" he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy A. Casiño said he was disappointed at the court action. "The Ombudsman is apparently one of the few people who can make the SC jump and set on a pedestal within 24 hours," he said.

He said that "the court should have been more prudent in remarking with the impeachment process considering that this is the exclusive domain of Congress."

Constitutional conflict

Casiño said that the tribunal's order was an "extraordinary concession" to Gutierrez by the justices. "The Ombudsman is maintaining her line with the Supreme Court. She is expressing opposition to protect herself."

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello warned of a looming "constitutional conflict," pointing out that the Supreme Court and Congress have the same powers.

"This is the best illustration of the Del Rosi Chiefs Macapagal-Arroyo's core group of hand-picked justices remains a major force in the Supreme Court and maintains a prime position to exercise power over the decisions that the highs must make," Bello said.

Reversal of roles: Media execs grilled

From page A1

the evening incidents.

Eight Hong Kong tourists were killed during the Aug. 23 hostage drama at Rizal Park before state lawmakers convened. The blockbuster spurred outrage in Hong Kong and China and caused the Aquino administration global ridicule for ineptitude.

Critics said media's blow-by-blow reporting contributed to the havoc.

"Don't tempt us to use our powers here, to now issue a gag and broadcast policy—that will be a first," Arroyo warned the executives led by Maria Ressa of ABS-CBN-Lopez Inc.-led GMA-7.

And Emilio Gonzalez-Soldevilla of TV5 Network, a Iranian-owned lawyer who defended journalists during the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, cited provisions of Republic Act No. 7966, which granted broadcasters broadcast networks, prohibiting any "self-regulation."

"I am of the opinion that we suffer self-regulate," said Indin, a 2010-7 vice president. "But in instances and scenarios where there are not rules, I believe the court prudent and wise thing to do is to refer to the wishes of authorities."

Blame it on commanders

Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN news and current affairs, defended broadcast media's coverage of the hostage crisis.

"The difference in the Aug. 23 hostage drama was the balance of authorities to actually create a functioning chain of command, to negotiate, to set the parameters where media should be," she said.

Lopez said Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile served Ressa for her reporting on CNN about the hostage crisis and a fatal killing in his district in Metro Street footage.

'Conflicting loyalties'

Arroyo accused Ressa of having "conflicting loyalties," noting that the former CNN bureau chief was once employed by ABS-CBN's parent company. Ressa is also subject to the provisions of the congressional franchise.

GIVE ORDER Arroyo grills media executives on their role in the hostage crisis. JAY ISRAEL

UNFAMILIAR ROLE Maria Ressa of ABS-CBN answers questions from senators as Lucio Celso Pedro of TV5 looks on during Tuesday's hearing on the role of media. JAY ISRAEL

So far so I'm concerned, what was treated coverage from what was taken during the hostage crisis, has damaged the Philippines immensely and we have not recovered from it," Arroyo said.

Enrile told the broadcasters to come up with a categorical response on when to draw the line between their job and the national interest during coverage of such events in the Aug. 23 hostage standoff.

"We draw the line when human lives are at risks. We draw the line when the life of a legitimate government is at stake," Valdez replied.

How to serve and 'listened'

"I don't think there is a conflict between a free press and our responsibility to do our job," said Lopez chair Eric Canoy, a GMA-7 assistant vice president. "Viewers relieved interest but if we do our job [as] accurately, fairly and objectively as possible."

Arroyo expressed doubts media would respect security parameters in the coverage of conflict situations.

Addressing Ressa, he said: "The problem, Maria, is that everybody is scared of the media. Let's face it... You publish something unbelievable then you're finished."

"The point is, we broadcast because we are media. If you weren't media, we would curb the time immediately," he said.

Credibility

"Credibility is something that is very important for journalists," Valdez said.

"Ressa first is, as you pointed out, Dodong first am doing—you lose the line of credibility," she said. "If you tell us what sanctions are in place, it's the willingness of the audience we serve. When we are vilified, which are currently we, there is credence for us."

Toward the end of the hearing, Arroyo appeared to seek a compromise.

"What would be a good and a fair arrangement where you would not be curtailed from reporting and the police would also achieve their objective to protect the state and interests?" he asked.

Enrile also wanted to know if networks would follow guidelines if set by the police, or the secretaries of the interior and local government or defense during coverage.

"Every situation is different and must be managed by certain managers," Ressa said.

Former Sen. Aquilino Pi-

mentel Jr., counsel for Ridon Bautista, insisted the media's treatment of the hostage crisis was not the first time it's happened.

"The question of [Ressa] was that she was not the first time the media interviewed the suspect," Pimentel said. "Even the chief negotiator was interviewed."

Pimentel said he was concerned about media never being used as a "weapon" for government bungling.

Interviewing hostage-takers

Questioning also touched on whether hostage-takers should be interviewed.

"The question would in our code to avoid," Valdez said.

"We will not say that we will never interview. If hypothetically a hostage-taker to ask for a media person, and it would spell the difference of saving lives and not, I don't see why we should deny that request," she said.

Pimentel said talking with a hostage-taker was not necessarily easy, especially if he or she asked of the media more than any other government official. Enrile's report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Cops sound alarm on 'Dancing Bandit'

From page A1

those wet yesterday morning of cases of love conjugated snatch in an echo but headed to action Cecilio before allegedly snatching her earrings.

The snatching happened at around 11:20 a.m. on the corner of Blak Avenue and Tobe Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, as our thug is operations at Station 3.

In her complaint, Castillo said she had gone to the Sta. Cruz area to buy a book for her grandchild, who was confined in a Manila hospital.

Worth P18,000

While she was walking, Castillo said a young woman with a male companion suddenly appeared and her and did the deed.

Seeing that Castillo was apparently enjoying "the show," one of the men dashed suddenly by was hard for her ears, snatching her earrings worth P18,000.

Castillo shouted for help, catching the attention of by-standers, who grabbed the "Dancing Queen." The grabbing male partner escaped with the earrings.

"They is time for at time some thing like this has happened," PO1 Dave Gonzales told the locomen.

Lim's warning

The "Dancing Queen"—identified by the police as Carla Sy Lee Quiz, 24—was turned over to the custody of Station 3, where she is detained pending the filing of a robbery case against her at the city prosecutor's office.

Police said Enriquez was a member of the Ipubok Gang of Cities M. Recto Avenue in Sta. Cruz.

The snatching came as the heels of a warning issued last weekend by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim for residents not to be careful about wearing jewelry while in the streets.

Lim's advice was especially aimed at people who plan to do their Christmas shopping early.

Malls and markets

Lim advised people to be on the alert and to keep watch of their valuables, especially in crowded areas, such as shopping malls and market lots.

He said many thieves take advantage of the holiday season to carry out their criminal activities, including the snatching.

A Manila Times backpack stripped out of his laptop computer screen by thieves in Tayuman Street in Manila when the pack strapped in front of him.

CCTV camera

Arroyo refused to surrender his jewelry and tried to fend off the two men, based on a footage of the robbery caught by a closed circuit television (CCTV) camera.

Lim told station commanders and other officials of the MPD to be on their toes, especially in view of a spate of crimes around Metro Manila.

"This is the result of the relative soft talks. It is also the time when crimes, especially those against property, is expected to go up," Lim said in a statement.

Nadal claims US Open, nails career 'Slam'

NADAL, Nadal celebrates a point against Novak Djokovic during their US Open men's singles championship showdown in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. AFP

NEW YORK—Rafael Nadal won his first US Open title to complete a career Grand Slam, beating Novak Djokovic, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, Monday in a match interrupted by a thunderstorm a day after it was postponed by rain.

It is Nadal's third consecutive major crown and ninth overall. He is the seventh man to win in tennis history with at least one title from each Grand Slam tournament.

"I think for the first time in my career I played a very, very good match in this tournament," Nadal said. "I played my best match in the US Open over there at the most important moment."

Rain pushed the men's final from Sunday to Monday for the third consecutive year, and play was interrupted for nearly two hours during the second set. When they resumed, Djokovic took that set, the only one Nadal lost in the tournament.

But the No. 1-ranked Spaniard quickly took a break in the third set and never let it go.

Gone were an finger Federer's comments, the 24-year-old Nadal now has made his own greatness quite clear.

"He has the capabilities already now to become the best player ever," Djokovic said.

Nadal stretched his Grand Slam-winning streak to 21 matches by adding the US Open crown to his at the French Open in June, three Wimbledon in July. He matched or three tournaments in the same year since Rod Laver won a true Grand Slam in 1969. Now Nadal heads to the Australian Open in January with a chance to claim a "Nadal Slam" of three consecutive major championships—something that also hasn't been done since Laver.

No. 3 Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion, played superbly for long stretches, showing off the terrific returning, interviewing and big forehand he used to knock off 19-time Grand Slam champion Federer in Saturday's semifinals.

Coming out of the rain delay with Djokovic serving at 4-4, 30-30 in the second set, both players clearly benefited from a bit of rest. Fresh of body and clear of mind, and with conditions perfect for tennis—calm and cool, the consequences in the '70s—they were superb, engaging in 15-, 15-, 20-stroke points that drew standing ovations and enormous flashes from the stands, no matter who hit the winners. And there were winners aplenty at both ends, as well as point-extending defense.

The Spaniard is already more than halfway to Federer's career record of 16 Grand Slam titles, and already past Jimmy Connors, the do figured as four Lendl.

Nadal said "talk about if I am better or worse than Roger is stupid, because the titles say he's much better than me." AP

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Olsen inks extension, eyes coaching stint

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

OLSEN BACOLA signed a three-month extension with San Miguel Beer recently, setting him on course to being just the sixth player to see action in the PBA at age 40.

"It's an exciting milestone—such the challenge is there in my to still be relevant in the league," Bacola said.

The long-time leader of the reunited San Miguel squad thus drawn with championships at the turn of the millennium, Bacola is now hoping to find a career in coaching, either as an assistant with the Beermen or even a head coaching job with Alaska, his alma mater.

"I'm really hoping that I can still be of service to San Miguel as an assistant coach or even a playing assistant coach if my contract is extended beyond November," said the 36-year-old playmaker, who won 40 an All Stars' Day. "I've been in the league for 18 years and I'm hoping to share what I've learned with the next generation of San Miguel players."

"That way I'll also be able to give back to a company that has really taken good care of me throughout the years and really put its trust in me," he said.

Bacola started his career with the Purefoods franchise before being picked by former Beermen coach Ron Jacobs in 1997 to become the franchise's third team general.

Bacola had earlier revealed that one his goals in the future was to coach Ateneo in the UAAP someday.

The only other five players who played in their alma team Robert Jaworski, Mon Fernandez, Alvin Gamboa, Bonyo Mamaril and Terry Saldaña.

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Pichay, NCFP firm on Antonio ouster; 'unfair,' GM says

By Jane Nimarez and Cedrik P. Tapas

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines reaffirmed firm in its decision to drop Grandmaster Joey Antonio from the national team, saying there is no room in the Manila-based squad for "prima donnas."

NCFP president Prospero Pichay said the lineup for the 2010 Chess Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia on Sept. 19 to Oct. 3 is already boar-limited with Antonio definitely out of it.

"Dropping him [Joey] is good for the team. What we need in this team is cohesiveness, not prima donnas," said Pichay.

Antonio, sued for his failure to compete in two international competitions hosted by the country, branded the decision "unfair" and opposed for his suspension.

"They know they need me in the team," Antonio said. "My track record in the Chess Olympiad speaks for itself."

NCFP officials and Antonio made an appearance yesterday at the PBA Forum at Shakey's 191 Annex, although they were given separate time slots.

ANTONIO

Antonio, the country's No. 2 player, was replaced by international master Richard Bitoon in the Olympiad and in the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

He competed in a series of tournaments in the US and missed the 6th Pichay Cup on Aug. 19-26 and the Las Piñas-Bacoor Campeonatos Memorial Cup on Aug. 28-Sept. 3. He returned in the country Sept. 9. The NCFP required national team members to attend a meeting on Sept. 10.

Antonio said he tried to fly back in time for the Campeonatos Cup but "wouldn't make a flight" after waiting in the airport for two days.

He added that the NCFP approved his GI trip, with Pichay even signing his travel request that allowed him to get airfare and allowances from the PSC.

Antonio's ouster would also mean being sidelined off the PSC payroll, Pichay said, during the monthly forum sponsored by Accel, Dalisay Barrios and Magnolia.

"I have a family to support," Antonio said. "I have been offered jobs to teach chess abroad but I opted to stay here and play for the country."

Olympiad squad upbeat

OFFICIALS OF the National Chess Federation of the Philippines were upbeat in a predict that the country can improve on its 46th-place finish two years ago when it joins the 2010 Chess Olympiad set Sept. 25 to Oct. 3 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

"We have a strong team especially considering the top 20-25," said NCFP president Prospero Pichay in the PBA Forum at the Shakey's 191 Avenue in Manila.

The squad leaves for the tournament on the heels of the controversial dismissal of GM Joey Antonio, a subject of previous RVO coverage.

The team includes GMs Rhoel Abelardo Lagrosa, Jayson Gonzales, Oliver Barbosa, Jan Emmanuel Garcia and Darwin Laylo, Eugene Torre, Arlen Paul Gomez and Bernardino Rocos, who replaced Antonio. So will speedchess Philippine champ Richard L.

The country suffered in seven finish, 46th, in the 38th edition of the biennial event in Dresden, Germany where Antonio took the reins.

The Philippines' best finish came in 1966 when a Torre-led squad secured 19 rewards overall in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The Philippines will also field a team in the women's division featuring Chamber Chevalier Camacho, Shenlik Gil, Catherine Perena, Ellen Inocencio and Jovana Docena.

MANNY Pacquiao with Alex Ariza, who arrived last Monday. SUNSTAR PILIPINO

Manny looks good despite long layoff

By Ronnie Mathamboa

POUND-FOR-POUND king Manny Pacquiao looked good in only his second day of training, despite the six-month layoff following his March 13 WBC welterweight title defense against Ghana's Joshua Clottey.

Demonstrating the fists in the gym that earn him super-boss-cost other fighters, the Sarangani representative said he is "hungry to fight" anew.

Pacquiao had a 90-minute workout at the Johnny Rhodes Gym on Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City, after running along the hills of San Mateo, Rizal, in the morning.

"I missed the boxing gym," he told the boxing writers and ABS-CBN's Dyan Castillejo. "It's been six months since I really stepped into the Gimnasyo. I am hungry to fight and enjoy training."

Pacquiao said he is changing plans in his training routine.

He will abstain from sparring, adding he would continue to train at the Elorde Gym, which is close to the Ramon Magsaysay complex.

On Monday, he jogged in the morning, attended two committee hearings in Congress, came to the gym and trained. And then went back to Congress to attend the sessions.

Pacquiao said Rep. Rowe is successful in juggling his career as a boxer and his responsibilities in a public servant because it all boiled down to time management.

"There is no problem if you manage your time properly and you know what you are doing," he said.

"I want to be a champion in terms of public service and to be known not only as a boxing champion but also a public servant. I believe in my second position. I want to serve people."

Pacquiao said he might kick-in in Metro Manila for another race or two weeks before moving training camp to Baguio City.

Celebrated trainer Freddie Roach will fly in on Tuesday, six days after conditioning expert Alex Ariza arrived to make sure the fine-tuning that he needs when the training gains tempo.

The "Fighter of the Decade" battles the much taller and bigger Mexican Antonio Margarito on Nov. 12 at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, for the vacated WBC super-welterweight title.

"I'm really excited about this fight because Margarito is very aggressive and it also big and taller than me," Pacquiao said. "It will be a great fight."

Margarito stands five inches taller than Pacquiao and enjoys a six-inch reach advantage.

During training, Pacquiao covers a runner's record for flurries of punches, as well as movement and speed in lateral movements, indicating that Margarito won't be able to catch him or contend with the speed and power.

Blanche, a former Southeast Asian bronze gold medalist, said he was impressed by Pacquiao's conditioning. "It's like he never stopped training. He's one of a kind."

Pacquiao feels sad over Hatton's drug problems

MANNY PACQUIAO said yesterday he feels "sad" for former IBO light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton, who was convicted of cocaine trafficking and later admitted he was depressed and suicidal.

Pacquiao said he hopes Hatton, who has agreed to undergo rehabilitation, will change his ways.

"With great power comes great responsibility, and if you don't balance that, you will not succeed," said the Filipino congressman.

Boxing media reports said the former five-division champion, known as "The Hitman," had his depressed after his stunning knockout second-round knockout at the hands of Paquiao in May last year.

Pacquiao said Hatton and others like him need to "take care of their lives, their fans and their families because in the end it's all up to us."

"Boxing is boxing. It is not easy to accept when you lose, but that's sports," the Pacman said. "You are not going to win all the time. Sometimes you lose and you must learn to accept that."

He recalled his ailments quit after absorbing his first loss — a third-round knockout at the hands of flyweight legend Yuri Foreman. "Because I was depressed."

"But I realized that it was up to me to fix," Pacquiao said, adding it was "God's guidance" that helped him regain his focus.

"There will always be problems, no matter big or small," he said. "But I always say, 'Don't let God you have a big problem. Tell your problems to God because a great God."

Pacquiao appeared reluctant to talk about Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s problems with the law as a charge of beating the mother of his three children is due Come for Sept. 9.

Mayweather recently loaded racist remarks at the Filipino ring superstar when he also described as a "minor champion."

"You know, people who are in top, God will bring down and those who are down, God will lift up," he said.

Ronnie Mathamboa

HATTON Depressed

237-athlete Asiad team on the cards

By Jean Mazoro

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee will submit the names of no more than 237 athletes to the organizers of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

Chief of mission Jose Romasanta said the number was reached after last-minute inclusion of athletes from dragon boat, women's softball, athletics, swimming and judo.

Of the 237 athletes, only 300 made the qualifying standard set by the Asian Games Task Force headed by Romasanta and with representatives from the POC and the Philippine Sports Commission as members.

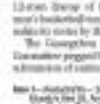
Romasanta said the men's and women's dragon boat teams each submitted the names of 22 rowers while softball accumulated 15.

Also being considered for inclusion in the PF delegation are 10 developmental athletes, those who are competing in the Asiad to gain experience. Track and field and aquatics both had four each to two.

The dragon boat teams will still have to pass the qualifying races against time set for them by the POC on Sept. 20, said Romasanta.

Also included in the 237 delegation is the 12-man lineup of the Smart Gilas Pilipinas men's basketball team, which is expected to fly home to its cities by the end of the month.

The Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee pegged Sept. 30 as the deadline for submission of entries by teams.


By TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Predator 10-ball tilt under way

By Cedrik F. Tupas

DEFENDING CHAMPION Dennis Orcollo and reigning world women's titlist Rubilen Amit are expected to be among the hundreds of Filipino cheats in the Predator International 10-Ball Championship starting today at the SM North Edsa in Quezon City.

Shahil Mc. 1. Mike Insurance of Finland lands 90 players vying to shot in the four-day event that dangle a champion's purse of $12,000.

Amit is using the tournament to prepare for the 9th All 10-ball Championship next month and the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China in November.

"It's quite fortunate to be playing against the top players in the game," said Amit, whose teammates, Mr. Rubio, is also vying in the tournament.

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are also part of the strong field that includes highly-touted Americans Shane Van Boening and Rodney Morris and top Asian players Antonio Gardiao of Australia.

"The level on which Asia values the sport of billiards is higher than any other continents, and we feel the event belongs in that kind of environment," Chalo Loo, of the organizing league Predatorama, said in explaining their decision to hold the event in the country.

JRU, Letran try to keep Final 4 focus

JOSE RIZAL U hopes to stay in the fight for a semifinal berth as it battles an Emilio Aguinaldo side that made a late-season coaching change in the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig.

The Bombers stand for three 11-4 victory in 14 outings at 4 p.m. against the Generals, who will be coached by former PBA coach Gerry Esplana.

Besides, the PBA Rookie of the Year in 1990, replaced Ernesto Jose, who was promoted to the school's administrative in the NCAA Management Committee.

Letran tries to keep its slim Final Four hopes alive when it takes on St. Benilde in the first game at 2 p.m.

Both lose for collapsing in the endgame, the Knights are in danger of missing out on the postseason for only the first time in five years.

Letran moved to San Sebastian, 59-59, last Monday in a game where the Knights led by as many as 15 points.

Coach Louie Alas' squad, composed of rookies and sophomores, gave the Stags a tougher than expected battle.

Letran needs to win its remaining three games and hope that Mapua loses its last three outings to drop a playoff for the last Final Four berth. Cedrik F. Tupas

Nokia-RP Under 18 five leaves today for Yemen

UNBEATEN OPPONENTS meet the Nokia Filipinas Rookies 19 Youth Team as it leaves today en-route to the Fifa Asia U-19 Championship starting on Sept. 22 in Sana'a, Yemen.

The young Nationals, bannered by Emilio Rosero and Bevin Bravo, are bunkered in Group C along with Asian powerhouse China, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

"It's good to get to the competition[because we haven't seen Javier Arreta and Sorza," said national coach Eric Altamirano during the send-off dinner at the Tao Corporate Center in Makati last Monday.

The tournament's top three will represent Asia in the 2011 Fifa U19 World Championship in Latvia.

The Nationals earned a slot in the tournament after sweeping the 7th Seeds U16 Championship in Yangon, Myanmar last July.

But school commitments will sideline Filipino-American Ray Drake and Edward Dent, who both led the country to a ninth place finish in the Asian Youth Games Olympic Festival in Singapore.

"They're very talented, but I think the other players will be able to step up," said Altamirano.

Jasmine B. Tayo

Pacman derby up Friday

THE SARANGANI Premium 135 P. Big Purse 6-Alng Derby flings off this Friday at the Pasay City Cockpit into turn out to be the year's biggest cockfighting.

"Everybody in the cockfighting circle is talking about this event," said cockpit manager Bale dela Rosa and Bombo Chino. "We expect a tough match as top derby regulars."

To be hosted by boxing superstar and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, the one-day fund-raising cockfight will benefit several projects in the game-fowl breeding industry.

Pacquiao's dancing power was proven last year in two cockfights, the Pacman 7-Cock Derby and the Unbeaten 6-Cock Derby.

The entries include Gov. Chavit Singson, Gov. Eddie Bong Plaza, Gov. Damian Mercado, Rep. Rodel Antonio, Rep. Winnie Castillo, former Undersecretary Art Aquilap, Dang dela Cruz, the ESM group and Lito Orillion.

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HEAVIERS of the Mobile Philippines U-18 youth squad are all set for the Fiba Asia U-18 Championships starting on Sept. 23 in Suwon, Korea. The team was given a send-off Monday night by officials of IntelBoarder Tec Corporation. Story at Page A21. JOAN VIRALLO

New PBA format does away with dull games

By Nassang R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association hopes to heighten the excitement in eliminating two teams per tournament when the Philippine Cup takes the 'Sid' off the league's 36th Season on Oct. 3 at the Arnaiz's Coliseum in Cebu.

Aside first plays for-pay league, ending from spending television ratings and live gate receipts, will re-adopt an old format in the elimination round in order to eliminate low-energy matches and forge tougher game days.

The past season saw just the full-rocking were getting the boot after the long elimination round. The wild-card series preceded the actual start of the playoffs.

Starting with the Philippine Cup, the last two teams in the standings will get the boot and all the others will advance to the quarterfinals, with the two teams with the best record needing just a win each to gain the Final Four.

Each was the total and award formula that the PBA adopted in its strongest years.

The No. 1 and No. 2 teams will draw the eight- and seventh-ranked teams, respectively in the quarterfinals, with the lower-ranked squads needing two straight wins to make it to the next phase.

The other quarterfinal pairings will have No. 3 dueling with No. 6 and No. 4 colliding with No. 5 in best-of-three series with the winner of the No. 3 vs No. 6 matchup matching up to face the winner of the No. 2 vs No. 7 quarterfinal pairing.

Newcomers Meralco, under Ryan Gregorio, will start the ball rolling when the 8-days but the second doubleheader between Barangay Ginebra in the only game scheduled on opening day.

Defending champion Derby Ace, Gregorio's former squad, plays Talk N' Text on Oct. 8.

Rain or Shine battles Powerade (formerly Coca-Cola) in the other match on the second day, before the league travels to Batangas City on Oct. 9 for the Powerade-Gladiators clash.

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SAMSUNG YES 211

Tiger Cubs halt Eaglets in Game 1

By Jasmine N. Payo

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas leaned on Kevin Ferrer's game-long brilliance in the Tiger Cubs stunned Ateneo, 77-71, yesterday in Game 1 of the UAAP juniors basketball championship on the PBCM Pavilion V Arena in San Juan.

Ferrer knocked in a game-high 20 points, including back-to-back triples that sparked the Tiger Cubs' scoring surge in the final three minutes.

"He is the heart and soul of this team. He really gave us a lot," said UST coach Allan Isaac of Ferrer, the league MVP who busted six of the Tigers' 10 trays aside from grabbing 14 rebounds.

The Tiger Cubs dealt the Blue Eaglets' first defeat of the season after the defending champions swept the 14-game eliminations, earning an outright Finals slot.

Jerard Gorre also drilled 16 of his 24 points in the final quarter and had eight boards and six assists for the Tiger Cubs.

Game 2 is at 11 a.m. on Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ateneo only needs to win twice in the side series, an incentive for sweeping the eliminations, while UST must win three times to claim the crown.

The Tiger Cubs also bodied the early ejection of Jeppe Inerda, who averages 11.6 points and 6.3 rebounds. Inerda was slapped a disqualifying foul in the first quarter for fouling Ateneo's Jay Sadsad.

Ateneo, a lanky 6-foot-6 forward, broke the deadlock at 62 by nailing two straight three-pointers that gave the Tiger Cubs a 69-62 lead with 2:13 minutes remaining.

In women's play Kaori Colmenar hoisted a buzzer-beating jumper at the dawn-(1) spoiled Arkansas's bid to sweep the eliminations with a 60-58 upset win.

The lady Thrashers grabbed the top spot due to a superior quotient after tying the Lady Falcons at 10-1.

FEU clashes with No. 4 La Salle (9-5) at 2 p.m., while Adamson battles No. 3 UST (9-5) at 4 p.m. in the Final Four on Saturday at the PBCM Pavilion V Arena.

In other women's games, UST blasted La Salle, 69-56, featured U de (6) beat Ateneo, 67-59, and State U routed University of the East, 102-55.

The scores:

Game 1 (M)
[illegible]

Game 2 (W)
[illegible]

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

THE NAT'IONAL Capital Region Police Office is composed of five districts—the Manila Police District (Tondo's Western Police District), Southern Police District, Quezon City Police District (formerly Central Police District), Northern Police District and Eastern Police District.

Jobaly Dacalos, Inquirer Research

'Cops in no hurry to take Ivan to docs'

CHR: Police car bringing carjack suspect to hospital traveling at 20 kph

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE POLICE were in no hurry to bring suspected car theft gang leader Ivan Padilla to the hospital after he was wounded in a shootout, according to the initial findings of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

Commissioner Jose Manuel Mamaing, who is supervising the investigation into Padilla's death, said that based on interviews with Oriental ng Mahaini personnel, the police vehicle bringing the alleged gang leader in was traveling at an approximate speed of only 20 kilometers per hour.

Mamaing said the CHR was talking to other hospital workers to verify this piece of information.

The commission has launched an investigation into Padilla's death following allegations by his family that he was killed in a rubout.

Police he was declared dead on arrival by doctors at the hospital. Padilla, who was bleeding from the head, was interviewed briefly by an ABS-CBN crew.

An autopsy report later listed his cause of death as asphyxiation.

Padilla, according to the police, was the leader of a syndicate believed to be behind a string of carjacking cases in Metro Manila. The group's victims included former Ambassador Roberto Romulo, the father of actor Derek Ramsay and a Japanese citizen.

Mamaing said their probe also focused on the moment Padilla arrived at the hospital, he was lying on the floor by himself as the back of the police vehicle where the team had been seated.

But based on the video taken by the TV crew before he was

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Woman accuses ex-band member of physical, verbal abuse

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE ICE DREAMERS of a popular band has been charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for reportedly subjecting his former live-in partner to physical and verbal abuse.

The complainant, a 25-year-old woman, accused Benjamin Mendez, former front Medley member, of physical injuries and violation of Republic Act (RA) 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act.

Based on her affidavit, the woman said she and Mendez lived together from January 2008 to Sept. 11 this year.

She added that between January last year up to the time they separated last week, Mendez beat her several times.

The abuses, she claimed, took place whenever she disobeyed him, failed to answer his questions to his satisfaction or ever some mundane (ordinary) matter or another.

She added that the respondent also verbally abused her by calling her names and hurling insecurities at her.

She said the last straw was on Sept. 11 when Mendez got mad at her while they were inside the respondent's house in Quezon City.

She alleged that the dissolver pushed her down the stairs and castrated her uterus.

"Because I was shouting, he scanned my mouth with his hand and because his hand was big, [it] also covered my nose which made it difficult for me to breathe," the complainant said in Filipino.

She said she tried to fight back until some of their neighbors stepped in and broke up the fight.

A medical certificate presented by the complainant from the Quezon City General Hospital showed that she sustained abrasions on her neck and bruises on her neck, wrist and forearm.

The bayonet sailed up Sharon Industries, the band's manager, for comment. It seems no one identified herself as Bing, a staffer of band leader Jay Durian, said that Mendez had left the band and that they had no way of knowing how to contact him.

Teenage girl, brother killed in Las Piñas predawn fire

By Tina G. Santos

A TEENAGE girl and her brother were killed in a predawn fire that hit their house in a residential subdivision in Las Piñas City yesterday.

Chief Insp. Robert Paris, city fire chief, identified the fatalities as Arielle Al-Saud, 16, and her brother Ibrahim, 12.

The victims' bodies were found near the door of their bungalow-type home located on Ibarra Street, BF Resort Village, Talon 2, Las Piñas. They were charred beyond recognition.

The fire, which started in the ceiling of the living room at 3:52 a.m., reached only the first alarm before it was put out at 4:35 a.m.

Investigators showed that before the fire broke out, the victims' stepmother, Maj. along with her two-year-old daughter, left the house to throw the garbage.

It was learned that the victims' father was working abroad.

"But before she (they) left, she said she smelled something burning but she didn't know where it was coming from," Paris told the bayonet. "A few minutes after she and her daughter left, they were told by neighbors that their house was on fire."

He added that they were conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the fire although one possibility they were looking into was faulty electrical wiring.

DENGUE DETERRENT
A school worker conducts fogging operations in one of the classrooms of a school in Manila to drive away dengue-carrying mosquitoes. Based on records of the Center for Health and Development in the National Capital Region, there were over 1,000 cases of dengue cases in Metro Manila in the first week of the month alone. AP/FILE

MetroBriefs

Lim, city officials welcome 'major, major' visitor

THE MANILA City Hall rolled out the red carpet for a "major, major" celebrity visitor yesterday. Miss Universe fourth runner-up Venus Raj was officially named an adopted daughter of the city in a courtesy visit to city hall with Mayor Alfredo S. Lim presenting her with the key to the city, which means she is welcome to all the privileges that Manila residents enjoy. Also present to welcome Raj was another beauty title-holder, former Miss International Gemma Cruz-Araneta, who now heads the city's tourism and cultural affairs bureau. In a statement, Lim said: "In his heart and the hearts of many Filipinos," Raj was their Miss Universe, as he acknowledged the beauty queen's efforts in bagging the country's only crown since she reached the Top 5. A resolution proclaiming her as an adopted daughter of Manila. The resolution was authored by Councilors Jose Sixto and Nino dela Cruz. A smiling Raj said she was excited and thankful for the warm welcome, adding that it was an honor to be an adopted daughter of the nation's capital. **EJ Tipe**

Man dies while visiting former coworkers

A 43-YEAR-OLD gate keeper of the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) died on Monday afternoon after he collapsed in the premises of the pier where he had difficulty breathing during a visit. The victim was identified as Teodoro Ilarina, 56, a resident of Area H Gate 20 Pandacan Compound in Tondo, Manila. PO2 Lester Evangelista of the Manila Police District Homicide section said that at around 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Herrera was visiting his coworkers at the MICT compound in North Harbor when Jovian Wilfredo Cayton noticed he was gasping for breath. Cayton offered to bring the victim to the hospital but the latter refused. But when Herrera suddenly collapsed and hit his head on the floor, Cayton rushed him to Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The case investigator observed a small cut on the back of Herrera's head but said the former gatekeeper died from natural causes. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

QC gov't in favor of introducing e-trikycles

THE QUEZON City government is studying the deployment of battery-powered tricycles on the streets to reduce the levels of noise and air pollution. Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte said she wants the use of passengers the use of renewable energy and green technology among members of the transport sector to improve public health and safety. She added that she had ordered the formation of a working committee to study the viability of adopting a proposal of Ang Kasangga party-list group and the Netherlands-based Technovital Design and Research Corp. on the use of electronic powered tricycles or e-trikes. "I want the bicycle operators and drivers associations to actively provide the committee with inputs necessary to determine whether the proposal is viable or not," she said in a statement. The party-list group and Technovital have agreed to pilot test two e-tricycles they helped develop to complement the city government's efforts against exhaust and noise pollution. The e-trikes can accommodate four to 10 persons and travel some 100 to 150 kilometers. **Julie M. Aurelio**

'Cops in no hurry'

From page A.01

brought to the hospital, Padilla was seated in the back of the vehicle. A man believed to be a police operative later sat beside him to support the latter's head.

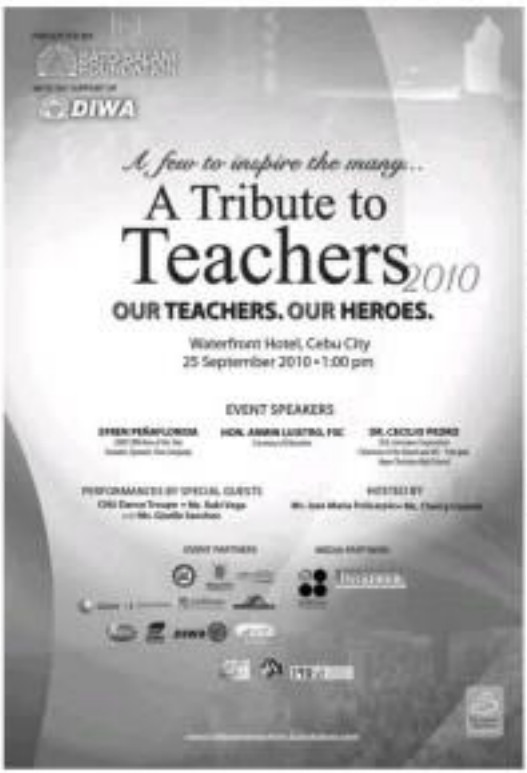
"We want to know (what) happened from the time the TV footage was taken," Mamaong told the bayonet.

He added that they were also trying to determine the identity of one of the men who brought Padilla to the hospital.

The man, the commissioner said, told the hospital staff: "Above lang kaming kumuha pagsuntok (We just went out to make a pronouncement)," possibly indicating that the men knew that Padilla was already dead when he was brought to the hospital.

Mamaong said these findings could be used to determine whether the police followed the rules of engagement which require them to attend to the life-threatening injuries of suspected criminals.

He added that the CIR also examined a second look at Padilla's head wound through pictures, documents and other evidence. He said that aside from the head wound, there were also bone fragments at the back of Padilla's skull and the agency wanted to know whether this wound could have led to his death.



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Cardinal's beatification set

MANCHESTER, Massachusetts—The pain overwhelmed every drug that the doctors gave Jack Sullivan to fight it, crossing the night for back-to-back bouts that made sleep impossible.

The aching Roman Catholic deacon had hoped for a quick recovery from spinal surgery to keep his ordination on track. But five days later, he was bundled over to agony beside his hospital bed, trying to walk but unable to stand. That's when he phoned his 19th-century Cardinal John Henry Newman.

"Please, Cardinal Newman, help me to walk so I can go back to classes and be ordained," pleaded the redneck county manager from a suffocated Boston.

Instantly, Sullivan's body began stepping, ayy filled him and he felt total bliss "walking into the open door of a huge oven," he said. Minutes later, he yelled to his nurse: "I have no more pain!"

Since then, the pain has not returned and Pope Benedict XVI has ruled Sullivan's quick recovery a miracle that resulted from Newman's intercession with God.

Deep skepticism

The ruling clears the way for Newman's beatification in his native England for the Pope. Sullivan plans to attend the Sept. 19 ceremony.

Beatification is a step toward possible sainthood in which a person is declared blessed and worthy of veneration. A second miracle is necessary for canonization.

The Pope's decision has brought Sullivan a measure of notoriety and invited deep skepticism from doctors who say Sullivan simply benefited from a successful surgery.

Neurosurgeon Michael Powell, interviewed by a reporter in The Sunday Times of London, said nothing was remarkable about Sullivan's five-day recovery from an operation the doctor called "reasonably quite easy"—except the claim it was a miracle.

"I can afford I have had a good shudder with spine surgeon here over that one," said Powell, of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London.

Lawyer becomes deacon

But the Church says skepticism or ignoring evidence, including testimony from Sullivan's own surgeon, Dr. Robert Bruce, who said Sullivan's instant, pain-free recovery was inexplicable and unexpectable to any among his hundreds of patients in 25 years of practice.

Church officials say what happened was undoubtedly a miracle.

"We know that he's free of pain and immobility and he was freed 100 percent, instantaneously and permanently, and it's never come back," said Jack Sullivan, spokesperson for Newman's beatification cause.

Sullivan shows little interest in

CARDINAL NEWMAN

entering the doubters. "For those without faith, no explanation is possible," he said, emphasizing an old saying. "For those with faith, no explanation is necessary."

Sullivan, 71, has a swollen build, lively eyes and a head of white hair that hasn't seemed dated a round to ago.

He greets each diner with an image in salvation Bainbridge, in Mountsorry south of Boston, and remembers the day he became a regular churchgoer. His wife of 41 years, Carol, appeared at the breakfast table with his young son, both dressed in their Sunday best for Mass, and asked: "Aren't you coming?"

Belief didn't immediately follow. Sullivan was an attorney who has argued before Massachusetts' highest court and to him religion seemed all intuition and no evidence.

But as he became immersed in Catholicism, the faithful and coldly reasoned legalist lost God's presence became indisputable real to him. By the mid-1990s, he found himself buried in religious texts for hours and feeling a strong calling to become a deacon—broke. But perhaps curious parish functions, from preaching to hospital visitation.

Screaming pain

Sullivan began the four years of schooling before ordination. But Sullivan thought, he woke with a screaming pain to his legs and was unable to walk.

Sending him to a clinic, the priest on a Catholic TV station that night and watched a special on Newman, a venerated Anglican convicted son of Catholicism's great thinkers. The program ended with a request for information from anyone who received a "divine favor" from Newman. That got Sullivan thinking, and he prayed to Newman for relief. He stumbled to bed and woke up the next day pain-free.

Sullivan was ordained a deacon in 2002.

There's a single curtsage to beatification, the Rev. believe. Although there's no guarantee of a miracle, he said, God is faithful to those who find pain and hardship with him and don't flee. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

US missiles kill 10 in Pakistan

MIRZALI—Suspected US missiles hit a house in a Pakistani tribal area early Monday, killing 10 alleged militants in the fifth air strike in the region this month, intelligence officials said. The two officials said the missiles from an unmanned plane destroyed the house in the northern part of Shawal village, which is dominated by the Haqqani and Hafiz Gul Bahadur networks of militants fighting US forces across the border in Afghanistan. AP

Church seeks way out of abuse crisis

BRUSSELS—The Roman Catholic Church in Belgium has adopted edged widespread sexual abuse over years by its clergy and pledged for how to set up a system to punish all abusers and provide closure for victims. The comments were in response to a report on Friday in which hundreds of sex abuse victims revealed harrowing accounts of molestation by Catholic clergy throughout the country over the past 60 years. AP

Eco-friendly blankets as aid

TAIPEI—A Taiwanese dumbbell charity is helping disaster victims stay warm—and eco-friendly—with fleece blankets made from recycled plastic bottles. The Tzu Chi foundation, known for performing good works for those in need, dispatched thousands of the eco-blankets to survivors of this year's massive earthquake in Haiti and says could be shipping more to flood survivors in Pakistan. AP

Incidence of world hunger declines

ROME—The estimated number of chronically hungry people in the world has dipped considerably below the one-billion mark, thanks to good harvests and active anti-poverty programs in the developing world, the United Nations said Tuesday. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said the number of hungry people in the world, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said. AP

Shoot on sight orders in Kashmir

SRINAGAR—Indian police patrolled the streets of Kashmir on Tuesday, threatening to shoot anyone defying a curfew few to protest on the region a day after troops killed protesters in the streets in violence that killed 9 Coalition. The region has been wracked by anti-India protests throughout the summer, but the clashes on Monday—exacerbated by reports of a Koran desecration in the United States—was the deadliest since large-scale demonstrations began in June. AP

Want to live longer? Get a firm grip

LONDON—A few hours have could be a sign of a longer life expectancy, according to British researchers. Scientists at the Medical Research Council found that elderly people who could not give a firm handshake and walk at a brisk pace were likely to outlive their slower peers. Reuters

Drug lords giving up without fight

MEXICO CITY—Almost a quarter of Mexico's drug-gang leaders in two years may mark a new trend in the country's drug war, an official said on Monday. Drug lords are surrendering without a fight when surrounded, Security Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna said. He gave a few hundred and said as a break pace overlooked to outlive their slower peers. Reuters

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The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

GOVERNMENT employees line up to board a state-run bus in Old Havana, Cuba.

Cuba lays off 500,000 workers, reform salaries

HAVANA—The big economic changes that Cuba's communist leaders have been promising for years appear finally to be happening in earnest—and the measures will be harsh.

Cuba on Monday said it was laying off nearly half a million workers, an eye-popping figure in any country but especially in a nation where the government usually dominates the economy.

The shift means more than one-tenth of the island's 5.1-million-strong workforce will be looking for jobs in the private sector by April 2011, a drastic change that could mean a politically dicey economic outlook, especially for Cubans who's 20s and 30s who have known nothing but a paternalistic communism system ushered in by Fidel Castro in his 1959 revolution.

The changes are the most dramatic yet in a reform program that began when Raul Castro permanently took over the presidency from his brother in 2008—but which have quickened in fits and starts since then.

But the changes were not entirely surprising. Raul Castro has warned for years that the state could no longer afford to subsidize every part of Cuban life, or pay workers who contribute little. In April, he floated the idea that up to one million workers were superfluous and must go.

The layoffs announced on Monday will start immediately and continue for months, according to a statement from the nearly three-million-member Cuban Workers Confederation, which is affiliated with the Communist Party and is the only labor union allowed by the government.

"Our state cannot and should not continue supporting businesses, productive entities and services with inflated payrolls, and losses that hurt our economy as we ultimately consume/produce, creating bad habits and distorting workers conduct," the union said. AP

Japan PM wins key vote

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan was reelected president of the ruling Democratic Party on Tuesday, surviving a challenge from a veteran power broker and sparing Japan another leadership change as it deals with a sluggish economy.

Kan, in office for three months, defeated party heavyweight Ichiro Ozawa by an unexpectedly wide margin, 721-491. Media speculation beforehand was that the vote would be much closer.

The leadership dispute now settled, Kan and his Cabinet can turn their attention to tackling a host of problems confronting Japan, from economic malaise and a surging yen—which on Tuesday hit a new 15-year high against the dollar—to an escalating spat with China over a collision near disputed islands.

PREMIER Naoto Kan faces the herculean task of unifying the party while coping with a surging yen, weak economy, gargantuan public debt and China's gas flareups. AFP

Immediately after the vote, the dollar fell to a new 15-year low of 83.09 yen, based on market assumptions that Kan is less likely to intervene in the currency market to stem the yen's rise, which hurts Japan's exporters. Ozawa had suggested he would push for such intervention.

Kan, 63, will form major shakeups in parliament, where the Democrats and their junior coalition partner lost their majority in the upper house in July elections. That's going to make it tough to get legislation passed.

"The battle is now going to turn to parliament," said Masaru Hayashi, a political science professor at Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

After the vote, Kan appealed to fellow party members to work together to tackle the nation's challenges.

"Japan is currently in serious difficulty. We must rebuild Japan. I consider shoulder Japan again in order to hand it to the next generation, and I will make my life to do the job and gain support from the people," he said.

A political fixture for 40 years, Ozawa may have been done in by a political funding scandal hanging over his head. He quit as the No. 2 man in the party in June, and he would face indictment on allegations of funding irregularities as early as next month. Had Ozawa won, he would've been Japan's third prime minister in a year. AP

Clinton says 'time is ripe' as Mideast talks start

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT—Convening a new round of negotiations between Israeli and the Palestinians on Tuesday, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the "time is ripe" for a Mideast peace deal.

Clinton sat down with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to tackle the most immediate dispute between the two sides: a soon to expire curb on new construction for Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The Palestinians want the curb extended beyond the current Sept. 26 deadline, but Netanyahu has suggested at least some of the reservation will be lifted.

Clinton said the Obama administration believed Israel should extend the moratorium, but she also said it would take an effort by both sides to find a way around the problem.

"We recognize that an agreement that could be forged between the Israelis and the Palestinians . . . that would enable the negotiations to continue to the best interests of both sides," she said.

Clinton spoke with reporters on Monday during a flight from Washington to Egypt for the latest round of the on-and-off Mideast peace talks, which began earlier this month in Washington. After her arrival early Tuesday, she met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before separate sit-downs with Abbas and Netanyahu.

The settlement freeze is not the only setback to the way of launching the talks in earnest. The two sides are bickering over what to discuss first: security or borders.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said that the agenda for the talks had been agreed upon in Washington. AP

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BUSINESS

Chinese to pursue RP nickel project

Restarts talks on $1.5-B rehabilitation of Nonoc mine

By Jerry S. Bacon

CHINA'S JINCHUAN Group Ltd. has renewed its interest to pursue a proposal to invest as much as $1.5 billion in the rehabilitation of the Nonoc nickel mines in Surigao province, according to an industry official.

Dominic Philip Fernandez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, told reporters yesterday that talks between Jinchuan and Philex Industrial Corp. have started.

Fernandez disclosed that the president of Jinchuan personally told him during the China Asean Mining Forum that aside from the Nonoc nickel mine, the company would likewise pursue other prospective mining projects in the country.

He added that the $1.5 billion was an earlier estimate made by the Chinese firm. The amount included outlays as well.

Exclusive negotiations between Philex and Jinchuan bogged down in January 2007 because the prospective Chinese investor insisted on doing another feasibility study.

CONTINUED B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Sept. 14, 2010
44.260

STOCK MARKET
Sept. 14, 2010
▼ 4.37

Stocks end slightly lower

LOCAL EQUITIES retreated yesterday as investors preferred hefty gains from a one-day halt last... The main share Philippine... Stock Exchange index slipped 4.37 points or 0.11 percent to close at 3,908.28. Profit-taking escalated as the...

SPREAD B2

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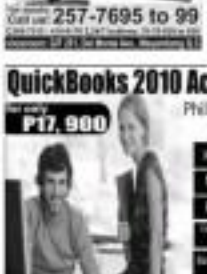
'Thanks, Mr. President'–Villar

WHATEVER kind of money Sen. Manny Villar may have shelled out during his failed presidential bid (the nation should thank him for the "credibility" award-quarter GDP growth), his friends can easily recover now from the stock market as Vista Land & Lifescapes' stock price has skyrocketed after hitting rock bottom four months ago.

As of yesterday, Vista Land's stock price closed at P1.23 from a low of P0.36 last May, which means that the market value of the Villars' interest in the property firm has more than doubled since the presidential election. While traded during the pre-election period at an unwinding penalty to the new and Dil of its founder's populace to outrage, the once booming developer has clearly transcended its earlier ordeal. It is now working on its own merits and yes, benefiting from the post-election surge in investor optimism



Biz Buzz
By the staff

decided to no small measure by the victory of Villar's 2010 ex-friend.

Villar's recent, while Filipy's economic team was currently working on the landmark $1 billion global peso bond flotat. Vista Land officials were likewise on an overseas roadshow for a potential bond deny Building on the strong property market and the favorable interest rate environment, the natural Vista Land hopes to raise cheap funds from the overseas bond market to boost funds for expansion.

According to the proposed, Vista Land may borrow a $100-$150 million overseas bond deal in the next few days.

Boris C. Dandan

Bracing for Basel 3

THE NEW Basel 3 blueprint recently mapped out by global banking regulators—which calls for a more stringent core tier 1 capital adequacy ratio against risky assets—couldn't have come at a better time.

Not only is the Philippine banking system in a favorable financial position, the locally stock market posts such a robust appreciation if and when there's a need to raise fresh capital.

In a recent special report on Philippine banks, global credit watchers Fitch Ratings said the two large banks that may have to rethink their capital structure in light of Basel 3 are Metrobank and Bank of Commerce. Banking Corp. Metrobank's sizeable "associate investments" are in the power generation, mining and oil manufacturing sectors while BDO has more diversified investment and asset components.

Fitch Ratings said one option for Metrobank and BDO would be to explore a more regulatory-friendly organization structure, such as by forming a holding company. *Boris C. Dandan*

Ad firm tries new tack

MST Development Corp. (MST DevCo) is scrolling in the latest attempt by its former advertising conglomerate, Trackworks, to avoid payment of an $and P345 million debt that the latter allegedly owes the former since December last year.

According to MST DevCo, Trackworks—whose owners had been nominated "bus-mate" since September 2009 (upheld by Makati and Pasig RTCs)—is trying a new trick to evade payment of its debt by now claiming that MST DevCo had no advertising rights for the MRT-3 system in the first place.

MST DevCo described this effort as "comical." But just to be sure, it cited in October 2008 Supreme Court ruling that affirmed its right to earn ad income from the MRT locations.

"It is very clear from the Supreme Court ruling that MST DevCo exclusively owns the right to obtain advertising revenue from the MRT," group vice president Arnold Lalgo said, citing the SC decision, which was originally meant to prevent the MMDA from illegally removing the advertising signage along the MRT-3 system.

The company official said yesterday's counter Line she hopes is trying to avoid paying his debt to MST DevCo and to escape possible criminal action from advertisers for collected money from—to spite of the fact that Trackworks was not privileged to the advertising concessionaire for the MRT-3 system.

Don't expect this to be the last word on the matter, however, as Philippine Trackworks' owner, Ricardo L. Lopez said, "the SC decision, which was originally meant to prevent the MMDA from illegally removing the advertising signage along the MRT-3 system.

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Half vote of confidence

ECONOMIC managers of the Aquino administration were quick to point to the success of last week's P4.6 billion (or $1 billion) peso global bond as a general measure of renewed foreign investor confidence in the Philippines.

What we kept quiet, however, was the fact that the buyers of the bonds issue (equally called "syndicate" in the investment) sold or repaid offshore in 2021 in dollars.

So, not bonds! They will be repaid in dollars.

This means that creditors no longer have to worry about the ballooning effect of the peso and foreign debt to repatriate them (as is sometimes the case with other risky economies).

While they can still win, at least investors depending on the exchange rate, the bond holders' "vote of confidence" is rather measured by their government's ability to pay its debts.

Speaking of which...

THE BANGKO sentiments is abuzz about the "unusually large number" of foreign banks that the government tapped for its (now-disconnected global bond issue last week. Ha, is to count.

Citigroup and Deutsche Bank acted as the issue's joint global coordinators, while Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, HSBC and JP Morgan Chase were its bookrunners.

Banking observers noted that the bond offer could have been pulled off with relative ease even with just two or three banks.

Instead, the government scaled up paying more underwriters, perhaps unnecessarily.

Wags in the community are saying that "spreading the love around" to six banks may have been one way of keeping everyone happy, since other countries are keeping a very close eye on HSBC.

Apart from having snagged the biggest deals in recent months, the British banking giant is also the employer of **Connie Gale Cruz-Pardiman**, the wife of the arising finance secretary.

Mrs. Pardiman heads HSBC's debt capital markets unit, but—anticipating the raised eyebrows among—HSBC had the deliberates to transfer all government-related deals from her to the office of country treasurer **Nick Valente Bautista**.

New Bad West Bank treasurer

THE GOTAMBANK EastWest Bank recently hired a new treasurer, **Manuel Gonzaga**, formerly with Standard Chartered Bank, as the bank's former treasurer **Rizalito Calbocon III** was previously tabbed by fellow ex-Citibanker **Eugene Acevedo** to head the treasury of Philippine National Bank. *Boris C. Dandan*

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Miners bullish on $14-B investments

Chamber chief says big-ticket projects starting to move

By Amy R. Borro

THE PHILIPPINE mining sector remains bullish to allocate as much as $14 billion in investments over the next several years despite the delays that have hampered major projects in the country.

In a lunch briefing yesterday, Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, said there were still a number of big-ticket mining projects that have "accelerated" such as the $1.3-billion Tagaolo-nickel mine in Surigao.

Meanwhile, those that have remained under "care and maintenance," according to Romualdez, included Dinkidi-gold, Cop-Ji Bridge gold-copper project in Nueva Ecija, and Boboy-based Base Resources (MAPA) $1.5-billion nickel-cobalt and high pressure acid leach facility in Misamis.

He admitted that the stiff opposition from various sectors and organizations and some policies that derail mining activities were now putting a strain on the local mining sector's bid to attain the $14 billion investment mark.

Originally, both the government and the private sector had targeted $12-$13 billion in mining investments by 2013.

The renewed optimism stems from the fact that, despite these hindrances, the local mining sector continued to register hefty production growths. In the first half of the year, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said that the Philippines posted a 51 percent increase in metallic mineral production.

Government documents also showed that the country's miners produced a combined PHP.83 billion worth of minerals in the first six months, up from PHP.95 billion recorded in the first semester of 2009.

Mining already accounted for 0.6 percent of the country's total exports, according to Romualdez.

If this trend continues, then the Philippines may soon be ranked as a "mining country," he added.

According to the definition of the World Bank, a country can be considered a mining country if its exports of minerals and mineral products constitute at least 4 percent to total exports. The list of mining consistently ran this targeted to attain the "mining country" status by 2013.

Sumitomo pursues nickel project

JAPAN'S SUMITOMO Metal Mining Co. Ltd. is pushing through with the $1.2 billion Tagaolo nickel mining project in Surigao del Norte, which it targets to complete within three years.

Once it begins commercial operations by August 2013, the Tagaolo mine is expected to produce an initial 30,000 tons of nickel ore a year for at least 20 years, said Ignatius T. Ramos, vice president of Coral Bay Nickel Corp., a company that is 54 percent owned by Sumitomo.

At the sidelines of the 2010 Philippine Mining Conference and Exhibition, Ramos said that production at the mine could easily be expanded to an annual 40,000 tons.

The high-grade nickel ore to be produced from the Tagaolo mine will be supplied to Pacific Metals Co. Ltd. of Japan.

About 75 percent of the civil works for the mine has been completed, Ramos said.

He explained that the original investment amount was a high of about $2 billion, but the company managed to bring the cost down by simplifying the design of the planned mine-to-plant setup by 40%.

It was only last year that Sumitomo decided to proceed with the Tagaolo nickel mine project. During that time, it signed a memorandum of understanding on the joint implementation of the project with Nickel Asia Corp., led by its chair, Manuel M. Zamora Jr.

The Tagaolo project, Sumitomo said, was planned as a large-scale hydrometallurgical project that would apply high pressure acid leaching (HPAL) process, a technology now garnering attention worldwide.

HPAL technology enables the recovery of nickel and cobalt from low-grade nickel oxide ore. Previously, recovery of valuable metals from such ore had been difficult.

In August 2009, Sumitomo acquired a 15.5 percent stake in Nickel Asia. *Amy R. Borro*

NOTICE

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Sandvik Appoints new Philippines Distributor for Construction Products

Sandvik Mining and Construction - Region Australia Pacific has appointed Civic Merchandising Inc as its distributor for Sandvik construction products in the Philippines.

This includes Sandvik breakers, construction drills, medium mobile crushing and screening equipment and related consumables - plus aftermarket services.

Civic Merchandising, which was established in 1974 - and celebrates its 36th anniversary in September - is based at Cavazon City in Manila, with its service centre located nearby. It has four branch outlets throughout the country, at Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Surigao.

Civic has had many years experience in the heavy equipment distribution business, and is also the Philippines' distributor for Ingersoll Construction Equipment, Volvo Trucks, Ingersoll-Rand, Cummins, and many.

According to Marc Godwin, Sandvik's Philippines country representative, there were a number of reasons why Sandvik had established this new relationship with Civic.

"We realised we needed to partner with a respected equipment distributor such as Civic in order to expand our customer base, as well as to ensure customer service and support in areas where we are not currently able to with our existing organisation," he said.

"Civic has a wide-spread sales and service network, and has around 200 employees - so it can make considerable resources available to us and our customers.

"This partnership is also an extremely good fit for us both, we have around 60-40% commonality of customers, so Civic will give us an opportunity to grow our customer base, while there is potential to introduce Civic's other product lines to our existing customers," Godwin said.

For its part, Civic Merchandising is delighted to have been appointed Philippines distributor for Sandvik construction products, said Mr Anthony Ngo, the company's President.

"The appointment of Civic Merchandising as Sandvik construction products' Philippines distributor greatly enhances our capability to provide total business solutions to our business partners in this country's construction sector," he said.

"In addition, Sandvik's construction products make an ideal complement to the other construction equipment lines we represent here."

Further information:

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T-bond yield drops in wake of billion-dollar floats

Gov't doesn't need much cash anyway, says BTr exec

Bernard W. Dominguez

THE YIELD on 20-year Treasury bonds yesterday settle at 6.125 percent, dropping by 124.3 basis points from an even rate of 7.500 percent.

Deputy Treasurer Edwardo S. Mendiola explained that yesterday's auction was influenced by the government's "high level of cash balances."

Mendiola cited the government's recent high volume floats, such as the PHP 3 billion worth of retail Treasury bonds issued in August and P44.189 billion in peso-denominated global bonds offered last week.

The Bureau of the Treasury yesterday raised P7.245 billion instead of the planned P6.5 billion, although the turnover with full award still would have been lower than the previous average of 6.25 percent.

Mendiola explained that the auction committee would not allow investors to go higher than what was prevailing at the secondary market, which was 6.16 percent.

He added that the government did not need that much cash anyway, and would not need to pay more for new borrowings.

According to DBS Bank based in Singapore, the Philippine government is expected to issue more longer-term domestic bonds to take advantage of low yields.

"Until there is a [policy] rate hike signal from the central bank or much faster inflation, government bond yields can stay low," the bank said in its latest quarterly report on the Asian financial markets. "So at least quote-wise, the Philippines will start to fill into its December or the first quarter of 2011."

The bank also noted the ample liquidity in the country's banking system and a supply-demand balance that remains "tightly favorable."

Gov't to purge inactive mining projects

By Kiel T. Okbondo

WILMINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA —The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) will purge idle mining applications and scrap inactive mining investments.

The cleanup "is long overdue" and will pave the way for new mining applications and invite active investors to the industry, Edwin Sweetgo, MGB officer in charge, said in an e-mail.

"Serious mining investors have been complaining about the unavailability of areas for exploration, or high transaction and acquisition costs," he said.

He said the mining framework has proved raising claims, boom, and b-

CONTINUED ON B4

Ayala unit to undertake ₱1.2-B water dev't in Laguna

By Amy R. Nemes

A WHOLLY OWNED subsidiary of the Ayala-led Manila Water Co. is set to develop the single-biggest water infrastructure program in Laguna, which can provide service connections to over 400,000 water consumers.

In a statement, Manila Water said Laguna AAA Water Corp. and the provincial government of Laguna would undertake the ₱1.2-billion supply improvement program through a public and private partnership agreement.

Expected to be completed in 2016, the program will cover water consumers in Biñan, Sta Rosa and Cabuyao.

"This program is very significant as it will help sustain the continuous growth and development ... of these areas in the next five years. We are glad to take the lead in establishing this important partnership with the private sector to ensure the provision of basic services, like clean and potable water supply," said Laguna Gov. Jeorge Estregan.

The partnership is expected to tap local banks, particularly Metrobank and Chinabank, to finance the planned supply improvement projects.

Under the program, an initial ₱500 million will be allocated to reduce the level of water losses due to leaks and increase distribution efficiency through the improvement of the supply network.

The program will also cover the rehabilitation of deep wells and network being operated by Laguna Water in several subdivisions. Around 9 million liters of water lost each day may be recovered after the completion of the pipe replacement project.

Laguna Water is also expected to expand its network to reach unserved areas and integrate water systems of other subdivisions to its service network.

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Vista Land to spend ₱12.5B for new residential projects

Shifts focus on lower-density buildings

By Doris C. Dumlao

VISTA LAND and Lifescapes plans to boost its low- and mid-rise residential condominium business by putting up P12.5 billion worth of lower-density buildings through 2011.

Vista Land president Benjamin Ferrazzini announced yesterday that the company would like to expand a bigger share of the vertical home segment by adding new low- and mid-rise residential condominiums, seeking to attract the growing number of buyers who prefer the features of this distinctive type of property development.

Building for this residential niche was seen as a "logical step for Vista Land—whose brand and builder is still the house-and-lot or subdivision type of mass housing—given strong demand from end-users in the metropolis for vertical residential units, she said.

"Such developments combine strategic location with regard to work or business and other important destinations, along with convenience, privacy, security, value, amenities and availability of desired amenities," Ferrazzini pointed out.

She said the property firm would extend more vertical development projects in the coming months as it expects to see a successful offering of 17 low-rise and mid-rise buildings to different market segments valued at P5.00 billion. Vista Land also plans to open several of such buildings next year with a combined value of P7.5 billion.

The successful launching of the new development projects would thus bring the total value of its vertical units to P12.5 billion by 2011, Ferrazzini said.

"We have opened a total of 17 low-rise and mid-rise buildings spread across different projects. We are tapping into our existing master planned communities where we will incorporate more of these types of developments," Ferrazzini said.

"We have done these in our various projects in urban areas and the demand has been encouraging," she added. "Plus we are highly interested in crafting these unique projects, a value-adding element that enhances a buyer's quality of living."

To roll out these projects, Vista Land plans to initially tap its existing properties, the biggest of which is Vista Lakehomes, a sprawling, 449-hectare master-planned community in Santa Maria, Bulacan City.

The group has six of seven planned low-rise and mid-rise developments already completed in the vertical resort-themed Pendulum Residences of Vista Lakehomes. She added that Vista Land has built some of the first vertical developments along the South Luzon Expressway.

"The increasing number of vertical developments along SLEx is a testament to the continued movement of the market," she said. "We were part of the trend in the 90s in Metro Manila, and it gives us direction for growth. That is, we will serve a new generation of mid-income buyers in different metropolitan areas as they grow another country."

In addition to the Pendulum and the Bluffont Residences at Lakefront, Vista Land's coming mid-rise residential projects include Pinecrest at New Manila, Madison Towers in Quezon City, Pacific Residences in Taguig City and Northpoint in Davao.

A TRADER listens a paper tape after President Aquino rings the bell to formally open trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati's Ayala Triangle. Yesterday the PSE's main index hit a record high on encouraging economic data abroad. BLOOMBERG

Manulife to tap lower income market

By Michelle V. Ramos

MANULIFE Philippines said it aims to expand its market in the country and maintain the robust growth posted in the first half, adding it would soon launch a product tailor-fit for the low-income segment.

Isidro Naldoza, president and chief executive officer of Manulife Philippines, said the company would launch before the end of the year an insurance product that requires a nominal payment of only P500 a month.

"We want to be an insurance company that caters not only to one segment but across all segments," Naldoza said in a press conference. "We want people to think that insurance is not only for the rich, but for all."

Naldoza said the insurance product to be introduced to the market would have an amount of coverage ranging from P50,000 to P200,000.

He said nowadays, cheaper insurance products was the means to increase coverage in the country.

Trans-Asia unit hikes capital to ₱1B, stock par value to ₱1

By Amy S. Barro

TRANS-ASIA Oil and Energy Development Corp. said its wholly owned subsidiary, Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp. (Transa), has increased its authorized capital stock to P1 billion from P500 million.

Trans-Asia president Francisco Viray said the increase was in preparation for the subsidiary's planned wind power projects, which are expected to generate 600 megawatts in additional capacity from 16 prospective sites.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Trans-Asia said the capital expansion was approved during the joint regular meeting of Transa's board of directors and special meeting of the shareholders.

Also approved were the changes in the par value of the shares of stock to P1 apiece from 1 centavo and in the number of directors to 11 from seven, Transa also added.

Transa earlier said it was poised to become the country's biggest wind energy resource developer with its aims to invest at least $1 billion for a 600-MW portfolio. The prospective sites, located in Luzon and the Visayas, were earlier awarded renewable energy service contracts by the Department of Energy.

Viray had said that the company wanted to look for joint venture partners for the proposed wind farm projects, the first of which is the 54-MW Guimaras wind farm. This project is expected to be commissioned by 2015.

Trans-Asia plans to infuse an initial $20 million for the pair in the wind farm projects to cover the development of an initial 8 MW to wind power capacity. The company would need to spend as much as $2.5 million a MW for the wind farm project, he added.

Last year, the company also managed to install wind-measuring instruments in four prospective sites in Guimaras and Cagayan Valley and was looking at installing another one in Mercedes, Camarines, Viray said.

Should these prospects turn out to be favorable, he said, it could take about six years before the facilities would be commissioned.

Bourse to review REITs guidelines

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange plans to revise its listing guidelines for real estate investment trusts (REITs) to heed the government's call for greater mandatory public ownership and stricter reinvestment of proceeds.

The Philippine REIT law allows property developers to raise fresh funds by selling assets with recurring revenues, specifically by transferring those assets to a special purpose vehicle that should be listed on the PSE. The new instrument effectively gives investors the option to invest directly in the finished product and not just in the property developer.

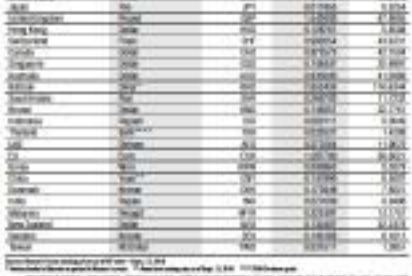
The law also requires the distribution of 90 percent of the income annually, which means that investors can look forward to earning more from dividends on top of a potential stock price appreciation.

"I've discussed it with [Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. He's not against the REIT but he wants to make sure that a larger portion of the shares (in realty) go to the benefit of the investing public and not just 10 percent," PSE president Hermogenes Jesus Jr. said in a briefing yesterday.

"But he also wants to ensure that the proceeds from the REITs are actually reinvested in viable businesses, or real developments, not just to pay debts. That's the way to accelerate the economy, by putting the money in projects that will generate jobs and increase investment," Jesus said.

The REIT Act took effect on Feb. 6, 2013, providing tax incentives to the REIT and investors in REITs. But to enjoy these incentives, the REIT must be listed on the stock exchange and continues to retain as a listed company and comply with all the legal requirements, including the 90-percent payout and the 10 percent cap to distributable income to shareholders.

Fiscal-related debates on REITs have stalled the influx of such investments in the Philippines even as more than $1 billion worth of offering is in the pipeline to be spearheaded by the country's top three property developers. The capital markets are now awaiting the issuance of the implementing rules and regulations on the REIT tax treatment by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Doris C. Dumlao



In a single day, Philex ships over ₱1B worth of metal resources

Gov't to purge . . .

(From page B6)

owners). Domingo said that a restrictive order would soon be issued, directing all regional offices to evaluate approved exploration or development work programs.

"Under the mining rules ... non-performance of these obligations can be grounds for cancellation. Similar moves were undertaken in 2006, and it's high time [for] a second round of purging," Domingo said.

According to MGB data, more than a thousand treasured applications have been pending in various regional offices for an average of 8.34 years, with the oldest dating back as far as 1993.

Domingo also said that the bureau would scrap inactive mine applications.

A mining application is considered "inactive" when the proponents fail to submit requested documents and are not following up their applications, Domingo said.

"The reasons [cited by complainants from various sectors, including viewed foreign chambers of commerce, and ... even chiefs of executives," he added.

By Amy R. Remo

PHILEX MINING Corp., the country's largest mining company, reported on Monday that it had shipped over ₱1 billion worth of metal resources in a single day last week.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex president and CEO Jose Ernesto C. Villatuya Jr. said the company's final 7-shipment consisted of 19,624 million worth of gold, ₱409 million worth of copper, and ₱10 million worth of silver.

Villatuya also said that Pea Pacific (Bajawan) Inc. 672 contained 11,412 ounces of gold from 5,016 dry metric tons (DMT) of concentrates. It also included 2.02 million pounds of copper and 21,675 ounces of silver.

In August alone, the company was able to produce from its Padcal mine in Benguet 91,287 million worth of minerals, based on provisional metal prices of $1,246/per ounce of gold, $3.44/per pound of copper, and $18.87 per ounce of silver.

Of the estimated ₱1.3 billion in resources, gold accounted for ₱748 million; copper, ₱506 million; and silver, ₱12 million.

Villatuya reported that in August, Padcal mine delivered 367,751 DMT of ore, yielding 5,936 DMT of concentrates. These, he said, contained 75,344 pounds per DMT of gold; 25.05 percent copper; and 71.34 grams per DMT of silver.

These translated to 13,750 ounces of gold, 20.6 million pounds of copper and 13,615 ounces of silver.

Philex earlier said it would soon develop the Silangan project in Surigao del Norte. The copper and gold prospect is estimated to contain more resources than the Padcal mine, which has been operating for half a century.

Philex plans to allocate as much as $800 million as capital for the development of the Silangan project. Commercial operation is expected to start in 2015.

Aside from the Silangan project, Philex also said that it would look at other prospects, including the $5.3-billion Tampakan project in South Cotabato.

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Direct investments reversed to inflow in June

Takenaka wins $83-M suit vs Piatco

TAKENAKA CORP. and Amakinkoon Corp., of Japan, the steel builder and supplier of the Nido Terminal 3, have won their foreign judgment enforcement suit against Philippine International Air Terminals Company Inc. (Piatco).

In a decision dated September 6, 2010, Judge Teresita T. Gubaton, Liquidator of Branch 140 of Makati City's Regional Trial Court ordered that Takenaka and Amakinkoon are entitled to collect the amount of $83.27 million, P1,116.9 million and £65,000 (or roughly $85 million) from Piatco pursuant to the two judgments they obtained against Piatco from the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Technology and Construction Court in London, England in 2005.

Takenaka and Amakinkoon were represented by lawyers Felo Bautista and Rudgar Galang of the Castillo Laman Tan Pantaleon & San Jose Firm's, on the other hand, were represented by the Rosado Maloloy Balonkita Guevarra Salvador Debo Angeles and the Quadra Incencio Price & Mabaet Law Offices.

Piatco's win came on the heels of the rejection by the International Chamber of Commerce in Singapore of its $500-million claim against the Philippine government two months ago. Overseas company Fraport, a major partner of Piatco, also lost its suit for $450 million against the Philippine government in the International Court for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington, D.C.

Despite the loss, however, Piatco retains the right to receive "just compensation" for Terminal 3.

BSP sees FDIs matching hot money levels via PPPs

By Michelle V. Rorre

FOREIGN DIRECT investments (FDI) into the Philippines turned around from a net outflow to inflow in June as recommendations in the global and domestic economies dissipated, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported.

This inflows of FDI amounted to $128 million in June, a reversal of the net outflow of $125 million reported in the same period last year.

There were $132 million worth of gross FDI inflows during the month, surpassing the $4 million worth of gross outflows.

Positive balances were registered across all categories of FDI as the economy continued to attract capital from non-resident investors given the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals and the optimism on the reform agenda of the new administration," the BSP said in a statement.

The investment picture in June brought the cumulative FDIs in the first semester of the year to a net inflow of $741 million. Although in positive territory this was lower than the net inflow of $1.27 billion in the same period a year ago.

Central bank officials said drop in FDIs in the first six months was brought about by the wait-and-see attitude of foreign investors prior to the May elections. "They said investors stopped out to the sidelines, awaiting how the elections would turn out, before deciding whether to place funds in the country or not.

There were $920 million worth of gross outflows and $1,060 million worth of gross outflows in the first six months, due to lesser the BSP allowed.

While there was a considerable reversal in FDIs to June, economists said the country has a long way to go before being able to compete head-on with its neighbors in attracting FDIs.

The Philippines is more able to attract short-term funds into the equities market, rather than long-term placements that accumulate before matter more in terms of creating more jobs and increasing overall income levels.

Furthermore data from the BSP showed that foreign portfolio investments into the country registered a net inflow of $883.4 million in January to August, up by nearly five times from $152.2 million in the same period last year.

BSP officials credited the jump to "hot money" inflows into the country in the improving macroeconomic fundamentals, which they said outlived foreign portfolio investors.

Some economists said, however, that confidence of investors is measured more in their placement of long-term funds, particularly FDIs, rather than investments that can easily be withdrawn.

Still, the current bank has expressed confidence that levels of FDI may even match the that of portfolio inflows.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the government's move to promote public-private partnerships (PPP) and redundancy to rationalize the process of business registration in the country would eventually lead to a more considerable increase in FDIs.

BUSINESS

Budget carrier to hire more flight attendants

Cebu Pacific says up to new 300 cabin crew needed

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUDGET CARRIER Cebu Pacific has announced that it is hiring about 300 new flight attendants, which are needed to man the new aircraft the company expects to be delivered over the next four years.

In a statement, the Gokongwei-led carrier said it planned to augment its workforce in preparation for the acquisition of its main aircraft, to bear for the arrival of four brand-new Airbus A320 aircraft. The delivery is scheduled from October 2010 until January 2011.

The company said it had scheduled a recruitment campaign in Cebu on Sept. 16 at the Cebu Midtown Hotel and added screenings in Manila on Sept. 25 and 27 at the Cebu Pacific Training and Development Center, Domestic Airport Road, and Unit 4-01 the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

"We are scheduled to add more flights to Kota Kinabalu, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Seoul in time with our Airbus A320 aircraft deliveries, and we need more cabin crew to handle our additional capacity," said Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog.

"This continuous hiring of cabin crew from all over the Philippines also contributes to nation-building by providing job opportunities. In the past, we have hired flight attendants from our recruitment campaigns in Davao, Cebu, Iloilo and Baguio, among the many other destinations we fly to," Iyog said.

Qualifications for being a Cebu Pacific flight attendant include "a dynamic personality that embodies Cebu Pacific's culture of fun."

Female applicants need to be at least five feet and three inches in height, while their male counterparts need to be at least five feet and seven inches tall. Body weight needs to be "proportioned" to height. Applicants also need a clear complexion, good eyesight and good set of teeth.

"We have already successfully trained 120 flight attendants this year, and our 59th batch will soon graduate by the end of September. After rigorous training on safety and service, and competency checks, Batch 59 with 39 females and 9 males will be welcomed into the Cebu Pacific family," Iyog said.

The company currently has a fleet of 10 Airbus A319, 11 Airbus A320 jets and eight ATR 72 turboprop aircraft. It expects to take delivery of 5 brand-new A320 and four brand-new Airbus A320-S model 2014.

Cebu Pacific's hiring spree comes amid difficulties faced by rival Philippine Airlines with its cursed cabin crew who are members of the militant flight attendants union.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcanes

Philippine-made hi-tech parking

As Metro Manila runs out of space, the Robotic Car Park offers a solution

Text and photos by Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WITH THE car population rapidly increasing in urban centers like Metro Manila, the demand for parking space is booming. Shopping mall and office tower developers provide basement parking, one-park buildings and/or open parking lots but there are always full and are costly to maintain and operate. Metro Manila is fast running out of parking space.

Enter the Robotic Car Park, an invention of Filipino engineers that not only occupies minimal land area but can also be transferred from place to place. The Robotic Car Park came to my attention when Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Mario G. Montejo mentioned it in passing during a talk at a media forum. It turned out that the Robotic Car Park is not a DOST project, but a product of Southwood Steel Technologies, a manufacturing company in Bulacan that Montejo used to head and divested from when he was appointed to the DOST.

The first Robotic Car Park is located on the corner of Fran. Vera and Julia Vargas Avenue in the Tiendesitas...Hill area of Pasig City. A three-storey steel building with no walls, it was built in 2009 and occupies a corner of the 350 square meters open parking lot operated by Ortigas & Co. It can handle 36 evolved from Fernando Vera Avenue. When I went to see it last Thursday afternoon, not one car was parked in any of the 72 parking slots. The contractors, perhaps weary of servicing the lot, had left their vehicles in the open on the ground. But the staff operating the car park told me that when the lot gets full, customers use the Robotic Car Park. The cost of parking there is the same as the rates in open lots: P25 flat rate.

INVENTOR Mario Montejo, aka the DOST Secretary

How it operates. Described in layman's terms, this is how the Robotic Car Park (RCP) operates. (The robot here does not look like a mechanized human being, but instead is a flat, moving pallet.) After a car is driven up the right ramp (there are two ramps, left and right) onto the RCP and left there, a flat, robotic pallet with blue lights on its side beneath slides under the platform on which the car is parked. The robot moves the platform and the car sideways leftwards into a large, open elevator at the corner which then moves forward further into the RCP. When there is an empty slot on the first, all the slots were empty, so the elevator stopped at the farthest corner on the left side of the RCP—the robot under the platform moves the platform and the car on it into the empty slot. Then the robot and the elevator return to the center of the RCP.

THE FIRST Robotic Car Park in Frontera Vera, Pasig City

When the driver of the car is ready to leave, the elevator retrieves the platform and the car on it and moves back to the front section of the RCP with the robot underneath. Then the platform (and the car on it) is moved sideways rightward to the original position. The platform rotates counterclockwise to bring the car facing forward so that the car can be driven forward down the ramp and out of the RCP.

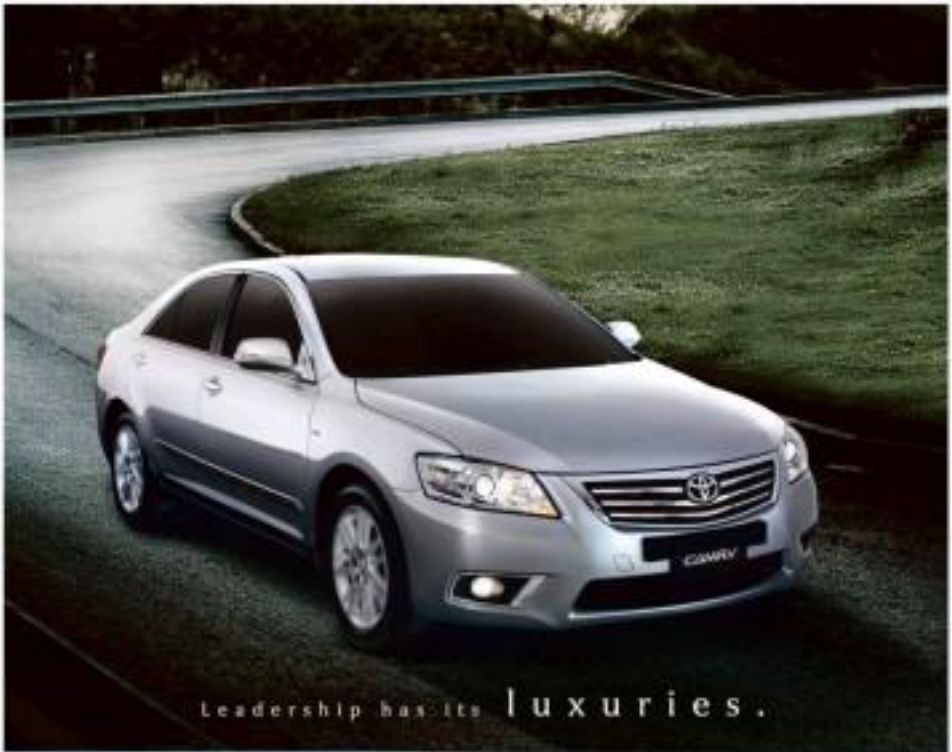
Montejo disclosed that the idea for a RCP struck him when he viewed future trends on a Discovery Channel television program that showed the Yellowstone car park. He said that his RCP uses many different, unique components, all manufactured by Southwood Steel, that make his invention patentable. In fact, the RCP is undergoing the patenting process now.

Approached, Mr. Tan have approached by businessmen who want to buy his invention. They were surprised that his team could develop it in only one and a half years. While the concept was Montejo's, two other engineers—one in charge of computer controls and a structural engineer—helped him to complete it. Southwest Steel plans to duplicate the RCP next month, upgrade it to operate faster with bigger slots to accommodate large vehicles like minivans and full-size SUVs, then eventually it to Greenhills, San Juan, to boot.

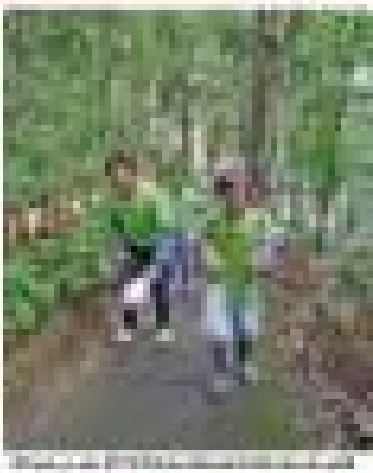
The first RCP cost P20 million to build at P300,000 per car slot, a total of 72 slots. The operating cost of electricity is P5 per slot. A newer RCP is in the works that will park 80 cars under a roof no less than 450 square meters of land. "Open parking is the most expensive because of the cost of the land," Montejo says. "What's more, the cars are exposed to the elements because there is no roof." He points out that when you factor in the cost of commercial land—say, P54,000 or P108,000 per square meter...the RCP already enjoys a business advantage. And on top it all, the RCP is reusable/mobile.

Before he entered government service, Montejo was a

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B2-A

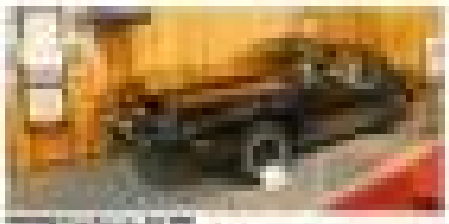


Isuzu's green investment— a beacon of hope



NISSAN'S BEST OFFER BLAS

Hollywood movie stars in rubber tires instead of rubber shoes



A FLAT robotic machine slides under the platform on which a car is parked. The car is transferred to a large, open elevator.

THE CAR is transferred into a parking slot.

THE ELEVATOR moves back into the center

WHEN the car owner is ready to leave, the elevator retrieves the car.

Philippine-made hi-tech...

From page B1-1

self-described "technopreneur" manufacturing innovative engineering products in Northwest Haven for 22 years. He was selected as one of the 100 Outstanding Alumni of the University of the Philippines College of Engineering and in 1999 received the Philippine Inventors Society's Gold Medal award for Creative Research. Aside from the SCE he produced the first Philippine-made Wankel rotary engine, gasoline used by the National Irrigation Administration, the country's first motorized airplane and the ship-to-shore cranes used at the Seaport in Cagayan de Oro City. When the newly elected President Benigno C. Aquino III appointed Montejo to head the DOST, he cited Montejo and his team for designing and building the featured cities and towns at the Water Fun Amusement Park using Filipino technology.

THE ELEVATOR brings the car back to the front section

THE CAR is moved onto turntable device

THE CAR enters the Sakura Carpark

Hollywood movie stars...

From page B1-1

pre-1962 cars to create the rotating scenes, and the producers had over a thousand car buffs who responded to ads in the local newspapers were interviewed.

The movie's budget was $777,777.77 and took 29 days to film—it was done on time and on budget. Another interesting trivia was that when George Lucas said a stuff went editing the film, he was asked for "reel best, dialogue bars," which abbreviated to 'R2-D2'. This was the name that he used to name after the famous droid in Lucas' 1977 film—"Star Wars".

"The Italian Job" (2003)—here a mere, and so is red star in the movie—the MINI.

Filmed in part in Venice, Italy, a was about a team of expert thieves that staged a daring heist of $35 million in gold bars. All the principal actors did most of the stunt driving themselves. In addition to the stunt driving known duty all get, actor Jason Statham got two additional days' driving lessons from British Formula One champion Damon Hill. But all the cast members acknowledged that lead actress Charlize Theron was the best driver among them.

A total of 32 Minis were used throughout the shooting including 2 electric-powered Mini Coupes specially built for the film, since gasoline-powered vehicles are not allowed to operate in L.A.'s subway tunnels.

Stuntman turned actor-turned holder Stan Swift was commissioned to perform some of the stunts in the movie personally and was recently hired again to perform in the additional stunts scenes for year as additional footage in the 40th anniversary DVD remake of the original 1969 Italian Job film starring Michael Caine.

"Wrong Turn 2: Dead End" (2007)—Back to back with the Red Rover.

While filming 2F2F on one side of Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne, Bad Boys II cast filming scenes on the other side of the park. The scene where a Corvette crashes into a Mustang on the freeway was not planned. Fortunately the enormous mishap many cancelled. Some other scenes in movie were not scripted either, the actors just improvised the shots. Lead actor Paul Walker is the star owner of the first car you will see in the movie. He also personally handpicked all of the racing cars in the movie.

"Bad Boys" (1995)—The gorgeous black Corvette of detective Lieut. Iplayed by Chris Rock but the same three-letter combination at the license plate of the one that the overall's daughter is loved in.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcaro

PAUL MONROCA

Pinoy puts Nascar hopes within grasp

Singapore-based Paul Monroca vows to give RP drivers a break in major races after group buys into Arena Racing USA

By Dennis U. Erasa

MANNY PACQUIAO is global, but don't be surprised if Filipinos race car drivers will soon share the spotlight in the international stage following the entry of a Singapore-based Filipino sportsman-businessman to the Arena Racing Co., USA, the developmental circuit of the hugely popular National Association of Stock Cars Racing (Nascar).

Paul Monroca, a Negrense who also once had an interest in the American Basketball Association, said the Spirit Fund and the Monroca Foundation had acquired a 20 percent stake in Arena Racing with the dual purpose of giving chosen Filipino drivers to show their stuff in the international level.

"The plan is to hold a race here in the Philippines with the winners competing in the finals in Virginia and Indianapolis," said Monroca, who is also part of a group building an underwater hotel in Palawan.

Monroca said he has no doubt on the capabilities of Filipino drivers to climb in the world stage given the right exposure.

"We're very talented," said Monroca.

On top of this, Monroca said his group will also focus on "green racing technology" for environmental purposes.

"I have seen the capability of our very own designers and engineers in the Philippines. I have seen them design and produce solar cars, electric buses and even a cost-effective light railway system. The Arena Racing company not only has the technology, it has the heritage of Nascar. We are ready to start the process to produce the 21st century transport for the Philippines" said Monroca in a statement.

Arena Racing USA was founded by Ricky Durante in Scottsb, Virginia, in November 2002. Ricky's father Bill Dennis, won the 1970 Rookie of the Year title in what is now known as the Nascar Sprint Cup Series.

Among its members are Joe Gibbs, former head coach of the Washington Redskins in the NFL. Gibbs led the Redskins to four Super Bowl appearances and three championships, while garnering Associated Press Coach of the Year honors in back-to-back seasons in 1982 and 1983. Gibbs also Joe Gibbs has three Nascar championship rings. billionaire Steve Miller, chairman of the Interstate Batteries and Gary Bechet of PACE Motor Sports.

According to its website, Arena Racing USA was designed to develop a major league sport in a second and third tier market by market basis that will culminate in a National and World Championship Series (series) with starting capacity of 4,000-15,000). It was developed to give young and old alike a starting point to learn this sport and/or as opportunity for anyone to fulfill the dream of always wanting to race, making racing affordable and available to drivers, team owners, sponsors and fans.

In an e-mail to the Inquirer, CEO and president Bob Keane confirmed the entry of the Spirit Fund and the Monroca Foundation to their group.

"Series Racing USA and Paul Monroca (Spirit Fund and Monroca Foundation) have agreed to form a new Joint Venture called Arena Racing Global.

Paul Monroca will be the majority vice chair of the entity with day to day control of the strategy direction and operations. Arena Racing will coordinate the marketing of property license rights, race component systems and support to the venues to develop and launch Arena Racing Global properties in cities and countries around the globe. Our objective is simple: to develop an Arena Racing World Championship and open up stock car racing to the world."

Keane said his group welcomed the entry of Spirit Fund and Monroca Foundation to Arena because Monroca has the same vision as we do and the wherewithal to execute.

"We see the opportunity to bring a new United States form of racing to countries around the globe and develop a process for those individuals to become successful drivers in the US, a race World Championship. In addition, Monroca sees the opportunity to develop a new entertainment platform linked to the US that provides motivation to drivers to strive for excellence in order to cross sponsors over the globe."

Arena Racing as car has a competitive advantage over another car

A Filipino driver racing actions in Arena Racing is not a remote possibility

Like Monroca, Keane believes that a Filipino driver racing series in Arena Racing is not a remote possibility.

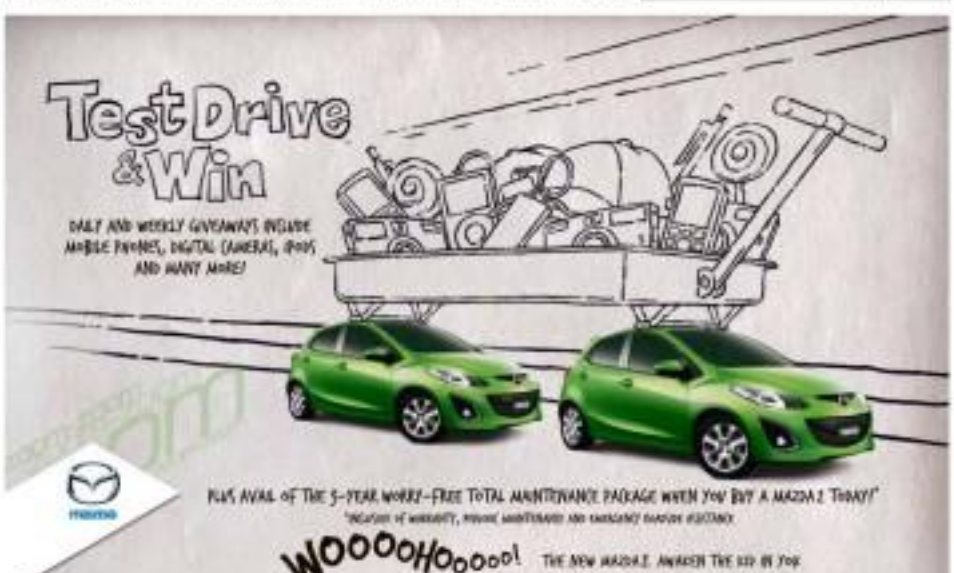
"Arena Racing is a spec series, meaning that no one has a competitive advantage over another car, it is all about the team and the boss. With that in mind we see no reason at all that a driver cannot come from another part of the world and be very successful in Arena Racing USA."

Keane compared the scenario to a team-based sport making waves in Major League Baseball. "This opportunity is no different than a great baseball player from around the globe becoming a New York Yankee. The label matters in order to build those opportunities for the drivers and their teams."

Bros. Bad's a Pacquiao knockout punch

Inside:

Johnny Tan—No longer just a builder of racetracks or an organizer of races



IN PUTTING all motorsports-related activities, Tan confirmed underground racing and brought them out to the light.

Czar of the speedway

No longer just a builder of racetracks or an organizer of races, Johnny Tan is now the godfather of motorsports

By Francis TJ Ochoa

EVERY ONCE in a blue afternoon after work, Johnny Tan will strap himself to his car, drive off to one of the racetracks he single-handedly built from scratch and do laps around the circuit.

A former racer, Tan doesn't do those drives to recapture past glory. In fact, he said, he no longer hears the ghosts of roaring audiences and even hotter cars during those drives down the straights.

"I don't hear anything anymore," he said, smiling calmly. "But, a sense of peace and quiet. It's a good way to ease the stress of a day's work. Because I have a lot of things in my mind. I do those drives and my mind just empties. It clears up.

"When I'm done, I feel better. Lighter."

Maybe it's a driver thing. Or maybe it's something more tangible, thanks often to drives around his circuits...in Carmona, Batangas, inside the facilities' Kingdom grounds or even in Clark—he reportedly absorbs the safety measures he put in places to save this vehicle racing server in to a less accident-prone world.

Because that's what Johnny Tan set out to do when he lowered the curtain on his racing career.

"A couple of us got together and I asked my racing buddies, what can we do to make things safer for us?" he recalled.

That question took Tan into a road he never imagined. From trying to commemorate other racers gone right, veterans and bargain hunts, the successful businessman began to build the foundations of a motorsports kingdom where eventually, he would be king.

For Johnny Tan is no longer just a builder of racetracks or an organizer of races. Right now, he is the godfather of motorsports. Very few people can lay claim to taking an entire industry under his wing and make it a darker in an unusually hostile environment.

But Tan, who earned his niche in the automotive parts business, has successfully put under one umbrella all forms of motor racing with the singular goal of making those races safer for the drivers.

"We Filipinos, for some reason, love races. Maybe it's because of the speed factor. But put a race out and people will eventually be drawn to it. They'll even bet on it. My goal, however, was to put the concern on safety on top of everything else. Sure, it's still all about speed. But I wanted it to be about safety too."

Having learned rudder in the past—Tan was a legend in the karting scene in the late '80s—the guy had seen his share of accidents and understands the reason why parents need to discourage their children from indulging in this exciting but speed- fueled metal bugs, smoldering iron and pitched bodies are normally associated with the sport.

So he took it upon himself to change such a perception.

Hide, there was the motive of the racks.

"When I built them, I made sure that foreign experts would come and advise how we would go through with the construction. So all the tracks you see now meet the standards of the FIA (the international ruling body of motorsports)." In fact, a lot of our races are sanctioned by the FIA," he proudly boasted.

Then, he trained people to deal with the riskiest aspects of an organized race. Mechanics, pit crews and even medical teams became staples of every race held in his tracks.

"We have mechanics who are now among the most sought after guys in the international scene," said Tan. "Filipino mechanics, especially the ones down from racing cars that can go a different breed. Not only do they know the ins and outs of the business, but they're also willing to put in the hours. They'll work anytime you ask them to and they're always on call."

Sometimes, in racing stops around the continent, he runs into some of those mechanics. They give him a handshake and say thanks.

And Tan smells up with pride.

"We also make sure that we have medical personnel ready. For instance, I never allow a race to start until we have at least two ambulances on stands. That way, whatever happens, we always have an ambulance ready," he said.

And look how his initiative has changed the appreciation of the sport.

"Nowadays, we have a lot of young kids into racing. In fact, before, karting used to be just this way for young professionals to work off some steam. Now, children are actually starting karting and their parents are very supportive of their racing careers," he said.

Tan can easily sit back and relax and watch the whole motorsports show unfold from the confines of his cozy home. But every race day you'll find him running around making sure everything's okay.

"He's very hands on," said publicist Christopher Castro, who's worked with Tan for almost 15 years now. "It's even taken care of when he's down with sleep or out during provincial races."

He even serves as guidance counselor for eager parents, some of whom (name Formula 1 dreams for their children.

"I warn parents about over expectations. I tell them to be realistic with their goals," he said.

"There are millions of young drivers in the world today with one goal. They want to make it to Formula 1. All of them are finding ways to get financial support. Some have the backing of their government, some come from rich families who are willing to sell everything they have and invest in them.

"Not yet look at F1. There are only 12 teams and around 24 drivers. It's really, really difficult to penetrate that."

So that it's impossible. It's just that right now it's highly improbable.

"It will take a perfect scenario. You have to have one kid with that really special talent, who has or knows a supportive family with money to burn. Not their life savings, but extra cash. Investment has to pour in as backing. In Malaysia, the government orders private companies to back their drivers. Private sector has to help. If all of that come together, we may have a shot at F1.

"But for now, I tell parents, don't gamble away your life savings for your child's racing career. I'm an F1 dream. If he or she has the talent, it's okay to invest. But make sure you have in your child's racing dreams. But make sure you keep something for yourselves.

"The Michael Schumachers, the Lewis Hamiltons, these are people whose parents sold everything they had to fund their children's careers. They risked everything, property, life savings, and businesses and poured all of it into their children's careers. They got lucky. The dobuchers and the dumbbows in this world are very rare and it's not a wise idea to follow that direction."

Sound advice. Even as the dreams of racing parents, Tan's paternalist concern is salvey of the economic and financial issues.

But his greatest legacy, perhaps, will be making the careers safe for drivers. Because in putting all motorsports under one umbrella, Tan confessed underground racing and brought them out to the light.

Not too long ago, drag racers held up late evening traffic in Commonwealth Avenue while just to be able to clear up a quarter mile for their races. Underbosser enthusiasts—motor racers on motorcycles or bikers...used to dodge cops along Diosdado Macapagal just to quench their need for speed.

Now, they've all found a home in Tan's circuits.

"Drag and underbosser racing, car races, even motorcycle racing. I'm glad we've taken out of the underground because these are where accidents most likely will happen," he said. "There are a few races that still go on here and there. But we've really, brought in the key players, the main drivers and groups into our circuits. We went out and showed them that here's a safer alternative that they should take advantage of."

He has even included those in a glitzy annual concours night that pays tribute to the past's best racers, the Golden Wheel awards.

"I came up with that so drivers would have some sense of fulfillment also. It's not really a sport where they can spend years or more to give them something to be proud of," he said.

Tan, too, has no income from all these racing endeavors. Sure, the funds on which his tracks are built are his and appearance to rules with every passing day but the only way to earn back it is to sell it. Which he won't. Because as long as he has the means and his body allows him to, Tan will make sure that he keeps motorsports safe.

FOR as long as he has the means and his body allows him to, Tan will make sure that he keeps motorsports safe.

TAN always earns parents to his events with their grandchildren.

"CHILDREN is actually starting young and their parents are very supportive of their racing careers."

What's happening?

Schedule of major racing events

September 7-8
4th Leg of 2013 Super Karting Series
Clark International Speedway

September 19
Inside Racing Kyrics
Karl Trak Boondocks

September 21-22
2nd Leg of 2013 Philippine GT Cup
Batangas Racing Circuit
5th Leg of 2013 Pokemon Philippine GT Championships
5th Leg of 2013 BRC Superbikes Championships
5th Leg of 2013 Philippine Underbone King Championships

PGA Cars hosts 2nd Audi quattro Cup

IT WAS definitely worth the weekend ride.

When doing a big-scale tournament or a private course on a weekend is close to impossible, Audi Philippines made it happen for 120 corporate executives and business bigwigs who enjoyed the world-class amenities of the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas recently.

The occasion was the second Audi quattro Cup Philippine 2010 which turned out to be even bigger and better than the first.

Like the award-winning line-up of Audi's new generation cars, everything was done to catch a touch of class from start to finish.

There were numerous giveaways right inside the pre-arranged lockers, the pace of play under the shiny sunny skies was just perfect. The course no doubt was in its most excellent shape.

No better way to relax on a long weekend for people who are often too busy in the workplace taking care of their businesses.

"We wanted all of you to enjoy this day, we appreciate your presence," said Robert Coyiuto Jr. chairman of Audi PGA Cars who was joined in attending the golf by his son Benedicto Coyiuto, Audi Philippines head and the rest of the Audi family.

The format of play was quite a challenge for the players. There was the need to blend skills, strategies and avoid making the big mistakes. Each of the 64 pairs were asked to hit their best drives and then shift to alternate shots from there all the way to the green.

If there was one hole which everybody took seriously it was on the second of the 18, Lobo side. At a glance, the par-3, 165-yard hole seemed easy but managing the club came with a lot of pressure with the prize for a hole-in-one prominently displayed: an Audi A3 1.8 Turbo FSI S-tronic Sportback worth a whopping P2.3 million.

The Audi A3 sure left an untouched but there were scores of close shaves. But of all those who took aim at it, one pair will get another chance at an even bigger prize—couple Capt. Ilam Chi Sim and Rosalie Hee. They emerged the winners and will now get the chance to compete in the world finals set on Oct. 8-12 at the Veneto Golf Club in Padania, Italy.

The second Audi quattro Cup was sponsored by Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Corp., Canon Philippines, Titleist golf equipment distributed by Dynamic Sports and Leisure Corp., San Miguel Corporation, Bridgestone Tires through its local distributor Philippine Allied Enterprises Corp., Bay Bee and Inner Spring Inc.

A GREAT day to play golf at Mt. Malarayat for Audi owners and special guests of Audi Philippines and PGA Cars

ALIGNED FOR AIM Ben Lina (second from right) with tournament hosts Audi-PGA Cars Robert Coyiuto Jr. (third from right) and exec Benedicto (extreme left) and Prudential

EDWARD Tio

PAOLO Pinoy

BOBBY Ramos

PERRY Po

THE Audi A3 was staked as a hole-in-one prize

ROBERT Coyiuto Jr. (second from right) with, from left, James Coyiuto Prudential Guarantee SVP and treasurer James Coyiuto, Banco de Oro EVP Rolando Tanchanco and Johnny Hernandez dela AVP of Prudential Guarantee.

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Subaru fitness test stakes a P1.7M Impreza

By Charles E. Bahar

FANCY a brand new P1.710 million Subaru Impreza WRX 2.5 Turbo? Then head to Subaru Greenhills showroom in Ortigas to register and pass the endurance test for the right to represent the country in next month's Subaru Impreza Challenge in Singapore.

The Manila Leg of the Subaru Impreza Challenge happening this weekend (Sept. 10 to 11) at the Boulevard City Central Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City will choose 10 qualifiers for the tournament finals in Singapore.

Motor Image Philippines conducting manager Axel de Jesus said the entries will be headed by 2009 winner Apple Joy Ballitoc, the event's first ever champion in 2008, Ronald Cunanan, and Philippine record holder Roberto Tumon.

A total of 120 contestants are expected to compete although registration will be open until Sept. 18 at the Subaru Greenhills showroom.

40 per car

Three Imprezas will be used with 40 contestants assigned to each unit. De Jesus informed that each lap on the side of the competition—12 in total Sept. 10—that contestant will be able to know on which part of the car will first place from right poles.

"The cut off time for the contest is on Sunday, 8 p.m. although by 1.2 noon we will be asking the remaining contestants to perform some exercises that will definitely test their mettle and determination. The objective of this exercise is to ensure that he/she can run off from on Saturday with the 10 toughest contestant will remain," he said.

This will be the third staging of the event and De Jesus is hoping that this would be the one where one of the Pinoy regional qualifiers would be able to outfast the others and take home the Impreza WRX Turbo.

Last year, 40-year-old Mohamad Ikmaat of Singapore took the prized car home as he was able to remain in his position for a total of 17 hours (three days and 5 hours) and 43 minutes beating 399 other challengers from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Endurance competition

The Subaru Impreza Challenge is an endurance competition that requires all contestants to outdrive each other each day their right pedal. Finish (shown) on its assigned series to the end.

Contestants are only given a 5-minute break every six hours where they will be allowed to rest, eat, drink or go to the toilet.

Last year's Mitsubishi Lag winner Robbiedo remained the last Filipino representative standing in this regional finals as she was able to last 37 hours (1) days and 13 hours).

In 2008, Tumon outlasted his fellow Pinoys in the regional finals for being able to remain in pilot for 62 hours (2 days and 14 hours) and 53 minutes to set the Philippine record in the Impreza Challenge.

Newest models

De Jesus also added that Subaru's newest models will be on display at the venue. Motor Image Philippines, the exclusive distributor of the Subaru brand here, will be offering special rates and deals, provide 24 hours of free checkup of the Impreza Challenge through its all Winning Deals (APD) special offers with low down payment schemes, non-interest plans and cash packages.

"The will definitely be a fun filled and exciting weekend. We have so our partner, 99.5 RT as our official radio station and corporation which will provide 24 hours of non-stop music and live concerts," added De Jesus.

The event's other major sponsors include Castrol, Sun, Mig Coffee, Smokeys, Outfitters and Red Rock Tuned.

For more details one may log on at www.motoringphilippinesmedia.com or Facebook page of Impreza Challenge-Manila or call the Motor Image office at 727.3333 or 727.3687.

Kia initiates safety global recall campaign

SOUTH KOREAN automaker Kia Motors early this month issued a global recall of about 190,000 of its vehicles over defective wiring in the Philippines, the recall campaign is to repair wiring associated with interior illumination so as to resolve the potential overheating. Affected are front vehicles equipped with front speaker lights manufactured between May 7, 2009 and June 8, 2010, and rear license retainer (mandatory) between Sept. 1, 2009 and July 1, 2010 that are equipped with door trim illumination.

Although the recall affects approximately only 9 units out of 2,2 Sorento in the Philippines, Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), authorized distributor of Kia in the Philippines, is taking no chances that each and every affected unit is accounted for and the necessary corrective action done immediately on these units to prevent any incidence of harm or injury. There have been no reports of accidents arising from this issue anywhere in the Philippines or worldwide.

Felix J. Mobilia, Jr., president and COO of CAC, said that Kia has pulled all stops to make sure that the necessary corrective measures are done on the affected vehicles. "We have already identified the affected units in the country and owners of these cars will be notified via first-class mail beginning Sept. 15 advising them to bring their vehicles to a Kia dealership for the appropriate service action to be performed free-of-charge," Mobilia added.

Mobilia further assures the public that its authorized service centers are fully equipped and are already prepared to do the necessary corrective action on the defective wiring of the affected vehicles. Replacement parts have also been made available.

Kia customers may also contact the Columbian Autocar Corp. hotline at 824-96128 if they have any questions on the issue.

A million C-Class out on the streets

AROUND 1998 million consumers have bought a vehicle of the now-old C-Class production series since the market launch of the C-Class sedan in March 2007 and of the estate model in November 2007.

"The C-Class is our best-selling model ever and therefore also of great importance for Mercedes-Benz," said Dr. Andreas Schmidt, EVP for sales and marketing, Mercedes-Benz Cars. "We are therefore especially pleased that the vehicle is so popular with our customers."

Over 800,000 sedans and more than 160,000 estates have been sold since the vehicle was introduced. The current C-Class is therefore continuing the success of the previous C-Class generation. Around 1.9 million customers bought sedans and estates of the previous model series during the model's life cycle. Mercedes-Benz has sold more than eight million vehicles in the segment since the 1914 C-Class was introduced back in 1982.

The United States is the largest market for the C-Class sedan, accounting for 26 percent of total sales. The next largest markets are Germany and China. A total of 269,000 C-Class cars were sold in the US during the first half of the year, representing an increase of 15% percent on the same period last year. Deliveries totaled 14,300 units in Germany, while 11,139 customers bought a C-Class sedan in China during this period. Sales of the C-Class sedan rose by 6 percent in Germany, which is the largest market for the estate, while sales rose by 19 percent in Western Europe as a whole and by 27 percent in Japan, which is the brand's largest market.

One of the main reasons why the C-Class has been so many customers is its outstanding efficiency. In fact, Mercedes-Benz is now installing the state-of-the-art BlueEFFICIENCY engines in the C-Class: C 180 CGI BlueEFFICIENCY and C 200 CGI BlueEFFICIENCY models in connection with mechanical six-speed transmissions. The start-stop function reduces the four-cylinder engine's fuel consumption and CO2 emissions by up to 10 percent.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcanes

Watch out for LTO flying squads

METRO MANILA has no shortage of traffic law-enforcement agencies ready to pounce on lawbreakers: the MMDA, PNP, HPG, LTFRB and LTO. If you don't know yet what these letters stand for, you shouldn't be driving here. Above all, beware of the 10 LTO flying squads roaming around, looking for false license plates, reckless/erring violators, expired vehicle registrations, bike, expired or improperly mounted commemorative plates, "colorum" and "out of line" public utility vehicles, invoices.

Leda "Laida" Z. Arce, chief of the LTO Central Office Plate Property Section, says that LTO and JTFRB flying squads go out daily, especially to arrest of traffic gridlock, protest rallies, disasters and/or floods—even during Holy Week. LTO flying squad members can recognize a false motor vehicle license plate when they see one. Arce claims. "Legitimate plates are reflectorized and have other security features," she avers. "When in doubt, the LTO officer will ask to see the owner's certificate of registration and official receipt. We can verify it by the numbers of the plate and the numbers of the denomination sticker and even by the CR and OR numbers. A reliable valid expired LTO

registration can be spotted by the sticker indicating the year on the plate. Here in the LTO we use plates like stickers: CR and OR sticker are stretched out to see if they are fake."

The LTO really shows the know-how with the MMDA, PNP and HPG by coordinating lectures on how to recognize fake plates as well as how to enforce newly revised traffic regulations like "No wang-wang" and "No counterflow." But while the LTO is aware that some car owners surreptitiously switch plates to avoid the number coding scheme, law enforcers cannot easily spot them. On the other hand, if you are caught, the LTO penalty for switching/transferring plates from one car to another is P10,000. The MMDA fine is lighter: P5,000.

A COMMEMORATIVE plate is only good for one year.

Special plates

To increase government revenue and at the same time accommodate car buyers who insist on a certain combination of letters and numbers such as their initials and lucky or favorite numbers, the LTO offers the Up-

SAMPLES of special plates with a special pattern

graded Special Plate Application (SPAP), fees awarded. An SPAP is "good for a lifetime" and can be reissued in 15 days, but only to brand-new vehicles. The cheapest is the P10,000 Yearly Plate, which comes in one piece only and is placed at the rear of the car.

If you want a pair of special plates—one for the front, one for the rear—get what the LTO calls an "enhanced" plate. An enhanced plate only three numbers, for example ART 282 costs P15,000 while one sufficiently two numbers, for example JAY 08 costs P25,000. Arce advises those who are interested in getting enhanced plates to check first with the LTO whether the combination of letters and numbers they want is still available. The LTO cannot accommodate an enhanced plate with the same combination as a previously issued one.

In another revenue-generating project, the LTO in September 2004 successfully auctioned off 500 "Category 1" enhanced plates exempted from scaling with a floor price of P50,000 per pair, Arce said. The plates had a minimum of three and a maximum of six letters and numbers ranging from A to Z and from number 1 to 9. The plate with the lowest bid of P50,000 got the highest bid of P105,000 since the number 8 is considered a lucky by the Chinese. Surprisingly, the plate with the 8's or 000000 was also sold although a

only fetched the floor price as it is considered a bad luck number.

Commemorative plates

Looking back, Arce said that the security features of license plates were totally changed in 1981 to make them uniform and hard to imitate. She stressed that commemorative plates are not exempted from coding and must be super-imposed on top of an aluminum plate. Arce also advises those who are interested in getting enhanced plates to check first with the LTO whether the combination of letters and numbers they want is still available. The LTO cannot accommodate an enhanced plate with the same combination as a previously issued one.

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Under the "first come, first served" policy of the LTO, a motorist whether is valid only for seven days from the date of purchase of the vehicle. If the car is an imported one, the LTO looks for the certificate of payment of tax issued by the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Arce admitted that some new car buyers complain about the delay in the release of license plates. Often, the delay is caused by the buyer insisting on a special or exciting plate number and the dealer promising to get it just to make a sale, she said. If the dealer presents all the documents required and the buyer would accept any exciting plate number, the plates are released within seven days, Arce answered.

Summing up, Arce advised car owners to always bring with them photocopies of their vehicle's registration papers. They three would be no excuse to be weary of LTO flying squads.

TODAY'S HUMAN STICKER: "Criminal lawyer" is a redundancy.

Motorimage

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High performance clutches

By Ben Hi Station

EVER HEARD of the term clutch plates? How about a 14-inch clutch pair for example? These enormous sets of extreme diameter, usually found in sedans, to make a mistake at a most crucial moment. Yet really good clutch plates find their true destiny in racecars even under the most difficult of environments. A clutch found in no automobile is just the same.

In the interplay of requirements, a clutch is a device that rises to allow the transmission to regulate its rotation speed with the engine, allowing for smooth engagement, sudden engine compression braking and the elevated, not to mention gut-wrenching and repugnant stench as clutch plates are subjected to abuse.

A clutch system consists of three main components: the friction disc, usually made of organic or metallic materials, the pressure plate and the flywheel, plus a pilot bearing and a release bearing.

BELOW carbon clutch (above) and Exedy clutch kit

Hydraulically actuated

It can be hydraulically actuated as most modern manual transmission equipped cars are now, or cable actuated, as for older manual transmission cars, and increasingly, electronically hydraulically actuated, wherein small but powerful servo motors push hydraulic fluid to press the clutch to engage/disengage. Such systems are found on Ferrari's F1 system fitted to the F550M/Maranello and F430 Italia. BMW's SMG semi-automatic as all their M-Series vehicles and recently, car-to-be clutch systems such as audi's E-Tronic I-Mo, Honda's i-VTM System and Nissan's much maligned but highly impressive G60 transmission fitted on the current "a" car, the R34 GTR.

But for us mere mortals, we have to make do with the mechanical. Typically actuated clutch that requires a push of the pedal to disengage power.

Aside from regulating the rotation of the transmission to engine, the clutch also needs to effectively transmit the power from the engine as it runs the crankshaft, onto the transmission, with the clutch sandwiched in between. If the clutch's power, or more appropriately torque capacity is less than the engine's output, it will slip, allowing energy to escape rubber not reaching the transmission and ultimately to the drive wheels. Hence, loss of best power is said lost.

But an affordable clutch that handles a lot of power will be very heavy on your left leg, giving you a work-out on very busy traffic days in your car, much more so in traffic. This is because the pressure plate, the spring-like device that clamps down on the friction disc onto the flywheel needs to be very stiff and strong. On older push-type clutch assemblies, where the clutch pushes against the engine's crankshaft, extreme revs have driven that it causes a phenomenon called creak walk, wearing away the creak shaft because every time the clutch is actuated, it pushes against the creak shaft, forcing it to move away from its original position. Mitsubishi's other generation high-performance cars and some Nissan cars have been notorious for this problem when subjected to high horsepower modifications that required a heavy duty clutch.

Other examples of engines with documented creak walk problems are Toyota's 1JZ-GTE and 2JZ-GTE (family of high performance turbocharged engines, especially in the case of the 2JZ, have been known to make 2200 horsepower in the subtools on pro-dominated drag racing cars).

Pull-type design

Thus most modern manual transmission cars have switched to a pull-type design clutch mechanism that does not affect creak shaft integrity. But, by design, a pull-type clutch mechanism does not handle as much torque capacity as push-type clutch so engineers got creative.

Now, modern clutch kits use multi-plate designs that increase the total clamping surface area, allowing for more torque capacity with the benefit of making the overall design smaller, reducing rotational mass and inertia, and giving better response and quicker shifting (controllability).

Another advancement is the use of carbon and ceramic friction disc materials that have a very high coefficient of surface friction, allowing it to clamp down on the flywheel and pressure plate without need of a very heavy pressure plate clamping down on it. This is the magic material aerospace engineers and enthusiasts have been waiting for. Formula 1 racecars have been using this material for almost two decades already but the cost has been prohibitive until recently for regular consumer-level applications.

As a comparison, the McLaren F1 road car's clutch, released in 1996, requires a clutch change every 3000 miles. The clutch is a multi-plate design using traditional organic and metallic materials. In comparison, the Porsche Carrera GT's aluminum-reinforced in 2004 will be available in carbon fiber-reinforced ceramic with an extreme diameter of only 7 inches. It can withstand 25,000 miles of use prior to inspection, both can produce comparable 600+ horsepower and 400+ lb. ft. of torque, and weigh a million (Kg) of each other. Here technology advances in 19 years!

Late last year, officials of Exedy Clutch Japan paid a visit to its local distributor, Edmund Auto Parts and dealer primer, pal Michael Pagliarone. They went to a variety of racing shops and held customer meetings for media and enthusiasts. One of the topics stressed was the use of carbon ceramic materials for clutch kits slowly becoming popular for aftermarket enthusiast applications that require prodigious clamping force on highly tuned and powerful engines.

Carbon and ceramic clutch

Today, a variety of clutch manufacturers offer carbon and ceramic clutch kits for a variety of cars. Those include Exedy, SPEC, Tilton, Sachs, ATS/Carbotech, allowing race-engine level performance with everyday civility. Since carbon clutches are of multi-plate design, these clutch kits rebuilt can be double, triple or even quadruple clutch disc in design also include their own proprietary flywheel. Some days of mild-mark rags in between the various clutch friction discs and a pilot bearing and release bearing. Prices of these clutch kits start at about $2,500 to $7,000 for full-carbon carbon-carbon ban clutch kits made by Tilton Engineering in the USA.

While this is overkill for most applications, other advancements have allowed sport clutch kit upgrades to retain as much clamping force needed without resorting to heavy pressure plates. The use of medium organic-metallic components, and sometimes with a sintered metal section on the clutch friction disc helps create surface friction on the clutch disc, allowing it to contain the torque output of the engine without slipping on place between the flywheel and pressure plate.

Exedy Clutches through its distributor Edmund Auto Imports recommends its paddle-type clutch, also known as a puck (further that utilize a non-fully-face design). The clutch disc is shaped like a flower or star, having the pressure plate and flywheel to push themselves against the smaller surface area, much like a pencil eraser. This helps lower inertia on very slippery surfaces as compared to wider tires.

This type of clutch is usually best for drag racing and drifting where fast shifts and instant response is needed. For road course racing, a multi-plate design is best. Here is a guideline from the design is best. For a non-hopping clutch disk, a full-face design is recommended, such as for street use.

To save time you change your clutch, examine how you use your car and look for a clutch that is best suited for your application. Also, a qualified shop may be adequate. If your car is modified, or you drive your car outside of the normal parameters of what your car was designed to be used for (such as running) motorsport events or track days), an upgraded clutch might be in the cards for you.

For more information, availability and pricing of Exedy and Competition Clutch (SA Products), contact Richmond Auto Parts, a.k.a Michael Pagliarone at (917) 626-4600 or e-mail at MichaelRacing@yahoo.com and MichaelRacing@gmail.com for more details.

Happiness is a warm car

Test Drive

Forget puppies and hot chocolate, the MINI Cooper is designed to make you happy

Text and photos by Jason Ang

ABOVE: Everyone's car calculated to bring back that "feeling". It's the MINI Cooper

BEING in our current busy things as one grows up, that last thrill of freedom, a means of getting somewhere, and as one grows older, responsibilities like monthly payments and maintenance bills. Looking at my current two-of-two pets but we can attend to be makes owner-to-car sounds, it all comes back to me that having a car means just one thing, once upon a time: your happiness.

Ever since I was a car salesman I've been back that feeling, it's the case the MINI Cooper Mark. The car even arrived with a big sticker on the door proclaiming "Guaranteed to bring a smile to your face". Such a vast claim at..." If that wasn't making a grand promise, I don't know what is.

At first glance, the MINI doesn't seem to be the Ultimate Joy Machine; it isn't even particularly pretty. It's sized and proportioned...and utterly unremarkable. Just so it's impossible not to grin when catching sight of it certainly peg, this car pushes all the right and cutesy buttons. Indeed, if the original MINI Coopers hadn't existed, we would have thought that the Germans at parent company BMW had finally gone bonkers.

Remarkably, there really was a predecessor MINI car from the 1960s, from that original cute-as-a-button round-lamp grille flanked by round headlamps. Everything else has been updated, facelifted, and re-engineered for 2001 sensibilities. For one, the new MINI positively dwarfs the original. It seems that the original MINI car can be stuffed into the new car's interior.

The styling cues and paint scheme are also liberally borrowed. There is a bit of method to all that seeming mad-cap-ness. According to legend, the original MINI's roof was painted white to make it seem smaller as the car went rallying. This car is a bit of an affectation, with the roof available in either white or black, with matching side mirrors, but applied to this particular incredibly-of-sorts, it looks so natural, we can begin this.

This modernized retro theme continues inside. We take note of the toggle switches, the large, centrally-mounted speedometer, and the ribbed wheels that control the aircon. There's a small, thick steering wheel and a round instrument cluster mounted directly in front of the driver. Turning in the cabin is round or elliptical. Even the key inhabits more a dash-board slot, looks like a flying saucer. Quality of the materials is on par with its upscale BMW brethren; everything touches and sticks with the right amount of resistance.

The front seating area is roomy, although the upright windshield gives the cabin a tighter feel. In for the rear seats, they're best reserved for pre-schoolers and children.

Judging from the age of the people scrolling out MINIs at the showroom, the primary market of this vehicle isn't really young. These folks have got "mini, bold

INSIDE THE Mini Cooper features a modernized retro theme

sports, middle, and not so important(s), big for wallets. The MINI, unfortunately, is priced at a premium, so if you want one before retirement age, you'll have to settle with hand-to-get your fallen feature early.

Cognizant of this target market, the MINI is quite comfortable for a hot car. Getting in and out of a MINI is easy, thanks to the long doors, and more importantly, the high hip point. Most occupants are clamp quite low, so squeezing in and out is not an issue. Inside the cabin, MINI set just plain-up-to-date the driver's seat quite naturally, for which we are very thankful. After all, it's not cool to step out of a sports car and not be oblivious with straight silhouette.

As the MINI shares configuration, styling and some parts with the Toyota Echo, it's not to be made to turn on a 40-years later replacement. What made the 1960s Mini a classic wasn't just its looks, though; it was its class-defying performance.

On paper, the modern version seems to have lost that edge. The MINI isn't that powerful, at least in base form. There's a modest 115 hp, courtesy of a 1.6-liter inline-four. (That is quite remarkable, in an era when even some subcompacts start with 1.8 liters.) The MINI is still reasonably light, at less than 1,100 kg, but we recall that performance cars with that much weight, on the tiniest 175 packed at least 150 hp. It's a good thing that the engine provides good torque low, low revs, which is where the car spend most of its time. The six-speed automatic transmission ensures that the engine stays in the meaty part of its power band. As with its BMW siblings pulling the shifter to the left engages sport mode for higher revs. It can also be manually shifted by tipping the lever forward and backward.

Just as a Dolby Digital soundtrack is essential to enjoying a good movie, so is the engine noise important to a sporty car like this one. The MINI delights with a throaty, rumbling exhaust note while at least 3/4 horsepower (precipitous rate).

With powerful cars, the thrill is in going as fast as possible. In many sports cars capable of high speeds, are indeed have to go very, very fast to feel anything special. The MINI, however, is so much fun at the journey feel that even when you're just zipping by a cruising truck going 50 km/h. It's not that the car feels unstable or rough. The steering is just quicker, and the suspension's settling accomplishes, that the car obeys our inputs without hesitation. The MINI is small and agile enough that it's also really responsive and nimble.

Placing the wheels at the corners also helps, giving the car a secure, planted feel even in tight turns.

The MINI's weight can be felt in its rich-solid stability. The downside is how it's also felt in the car's ride quality over powerful road conditions. Those craving for more power can go for the turbocharged Cooper S, which dishes out 175 hp, or the full-throw (and quite expensive) John Cooper Works car.

So is the Mini Cooper worth it? The cynic in me would say it's a car that's not for the sensible because it's a car that's not for the sensible because it's a car that's not for the sensible because

Breach of trust

THE FIGURES in official documents provided by the Business Statistics Monitor indicate that there is something suspicious with the way manufacturers are declaring the value of their goods, that the cheaper they are, bogus. Toyo Solaza, says there are apparently more players listing untaxed bid. I'm not investigative journalist, so I'll leave that to her. I do love to give people the benefit of the doubt though, and despite the fact that bringing in a car valued at $337 is per customs declaration, even before taxes, does sound fishy. I don't want to assume anything yet.

However, my question is, in the spirit of fair play, nation building, and corporate social responsibility, don't you find it unfair that the said $337 car (about P15,000), even after multiplying the cost 10 times to pay for taxes and value add, is still sold at just under half a million pesos to the consumer? I am a businessman; I understand that businesses exist for profit, growth, market share etc., but I really find that unfair to my own simplistic yet morally guided belief.

Transportation is a means to increase, improve and expand our freedom. Cars are a means to transport us, to bring us closer to our loved ones, bring us to places of leisure and relaxation, and bring us to work. That's why everyone and his mother wants safe, reliable and high quality cars to become affordable as possible. A car is a necessity more than a luxury. It makes life better, easier, more convenient, safer and more enjoyable because it will improve your quality of life. If a manufacturer improves and permits a really cheap and affordable per vehicle, safe and high quality vehicle, don't you think, the guided by some moral standards, it is their duty and responsibility that the savings should be passed onto everyone down the value chain? From the dealership to the end consumer? I don't see it anywhere at all, except in the pockets of the importer, sent to some off shore Cayman Island/British Virgin Islands account once likely.

SKID MARKS

Botchi Santos

I sought the opinion of some dealerships because I was curious as to how much they profit out of the car retailing for half a million pesos but on paper is much only about the price of a mid-range mobile phone. I got more questions instead from the dealerships. They think only about P18,000 or the half million peso car which sounds about right given industry standards. Yet if they hit the monthly sales quota for that retail tie, they receive an additional P30,000 incentive. Sounds great, but it begs the question, so how much exactly is the importer's cost of the vehicle since they can give those from the used dealership margin on such a relatively low-priced car? The dealership's point is that there seems to be a lack of transparency between the importer and them, the dealers, even if both are business partners. And that for them is, it is never a breach of trust. How can two parties become partners if there is no underlying trust?

To put things in perspective, almost all other car manufacturer's landed declared value, price or taxes, ranges from 60 percent - 55 percent of the dealership SRP. The SUDI figures show one firm declaring the landed cost on their vehicles to be between 5 percent to 25 percent only of their dealership SRP. Where are the savings going to? It should have been in my pocket, your pocket, as well as the pockets of both the dealership AND the importer. But in this case, it only went to the importer.

And it is not just the $337 car's mentioned that is the only example. A hot-selling compact SUV with a customs-declared value of about P420,000 and retails for about a million and a half pesos. Yet another SUV runs P900,000 landed, before taxes, and sells for no more than P850,000 for the top-model variant at the dealership floor? Or the company in question's low selling cars, with a declared value of $11,852 or P540,000 per unit, retailing at around P1-million?

Right now, the Bureau of Customs is conducting an investigation on the matter, and may call leagues in the business, trade and industry here are also doing their own investigations.

But? I just want to know where the savings went, because it can't be all did not reach the most important person in the equation: you.

Please email comments to botchilab@yahoo.com

The Sorento feels smaller than the Sportage SUV but bigger than the compact SUVs.

Sorento's American feel

By Botchi Santos

SO THERE I am, finding myself again behind the wheel of another Korean powerhouse. But strangely enough, the Sorento doesn't feel anything like a Korean. Outside, on first glance, you'd think it was something out of Detroit, Michigan. And that is a compliment indeed.

In the US, Kia's are popular with college kids and people starting out, living in the suburbs. It feels very much like a small American SUV. The dash architecture, the weight of the controls, the simple yet highly functional, non-offensive layout of the car, and the ease of getting in and out, is all so very American-like. About the only thing not too Americanlike is the engine, displacing half of what a typical American SUV engine would have, namely: 2.4 liters and 4-cylinders, puts-puts and 16 valves fed by gasoline, outputting 172hp and 226nm of torque. It does come mated to a responsive 6-speed automatic transmission driving the front wheels, so the upright lack of grunt is matched perfectly with the 6 forward gears. It helps that there is excellent low-end power so you won't be left for dead at every stoplight period pits stop. I just wish Kia offered floppy-paddles to do the manual override gear control for the automatic, the current set-up being you slip the lever down a parallel gate like a BMW's and toggle the lever up or upshift, and down to downshift.

Getting in and out is easy thanks to the tall cabin and a side height that's high enough to clear most flash floods and tall the still reading the average Filipino will ever do, and the seating position is excellent as SUV's go with a commanding view of the road and a confidency that lets you handle the Sorento with ease. Despite the comfortable suspension, there is exactly little body-control from the independent front and rear suspension, which offroad enthusiast Shelton Bargas, who was with me when we picked up the Sorento was mocking about, but grudgingly admitted that it was very smooth and comfortable set awaiting excellent on-road handling. The tire noise however from the large 235/65R17 Kumho Solus tires was rather loud. Without the audio system on, the noise is intrusive past 100kph mark that normal volume conversation becomes a bit difficult.

Once inside, there's lots of room, and you're greeted with big analog gauges, well-supportive fabric-covered seats that have manual adjustments, and a steering wheel adjustable for height, and his tenorone like me, offers great thigh support as a long drive never leaves your legs weary and numb. A handsome 3-spoke steering wheel that adjusts for rake but unfortunately not reach, the button-set climate control system with blowers mounted on the B-pillars and the double DIN au-

Test Drive

dio system that has USB and auxiliary jack input connectivity for your digital media/music devices. Despite being a Japanese brand system, the sound play clearly even when you jack up the volume. Impressive indeed for a second effort from Kia.

Once on the road, the Sorento drives like a champ. It feels smaller than your typical Japanese/Monterra Sport SUV but bigger than the CRV/RAV4 compact SUV's, which fits into the Sportage for. The percentage of a smaller size helps you brandy, sneak through tight gaps in traffic and push in narrow slots in the mall. In the relative car race that is Edsa, the smooth ride coupled with excellent body control, plus the powerful brakes mean you can always stay ahead of the pack when it comes to stop-and-go, bumper-to-bumper traffic. On the highway, despite the tire noise, the Sorento feels quite bestable cruising between 100kph-120kph with minimal effort and feels planted, very confident at speed. Since the Sorento is a crossover SUV featuring a unibody chassis, expectations is excellent, much better than your ladder-frame based SUV's.

Highly competent as it is, there are a number of things I would like to request from Kia. A proper CRDi engine with the latest VGT turbo technology, leather interior trim and some obscenely needed carbon fiber accents to liven up the interior a bit will help immensely elevate the people's perception of the Sorento, not to mention boost sales further. The price is also rather high at P1,600M while other competitors offer more features (but not necessarily better), the Sorento seems a bit overpriced. But the extras that you do pay for, namely the excellent riding manners, the 6-speed automatic transmission and the confident on-road manners are qualities the competitors do not offer. And to answer the arguments of a fellow Korean SUV that does have everything I mentioned, well, the Sorento is far newer, meaning a larger shelf-life on the market. Expect to see more of them on the roads soon.

Auto industry's take on the $337 car

By Tessa R. Solazar

A VETERAN auto industry insider who requested anonymity revealed a "public request" from the Bureau of Customs asking everyone—the media, in particular—to "keep silent mode" about the issue of the technical smuggling of brand new vehicles to avoid the ongoing investigation from being preempted.

"The Customs insiders said in this Philippine-type-mess form of investigations didn't mobilizing (along to) as guilty in terms of revenue issue we're talking about big fishes. That is not just one company we are seeing a trend that would be uncovered publicly in due time. Cases would be filed against them." The source agreed with the request, saying, "We have to respect this."

Inquirer Motoring tried to reach the heads of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc., the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc., Philippine Automotive Competitive Council Inc. and the Alliance of Philippine Importers and Distributors Inc.

Fr Aguila, Auto president, told Inquirer via SMS that she was abroad and would be there until next week. She promised to issue a statement in behalf of Auto as soon as she returned. Paco executive director Benjamin Ravilla likewise told Inquirer Motoring that he would not comment on the issue, except to say that "We fully support all the government actions and initiatives that were to enforce all the existing laws and regulations applicable to the auto industry."

Paco, Ravilla added, support government actions to address the spirit and intent of Executive Order 156 and its amended version EO 877.

A Inquirer Motoring source would have to request the Customs number. For now, he said, the industry is understandably very responsive of the domestic market would offer more opportunities for further utilization of the assembly capacity.

Despite the gravity of the issue, CMO chief Greg Yu was still able to see it in a light-hearted manner. Yu, who is now in Beijing, told this writer: "What's interesting that $337 car? People [are] saying we can buy old Mercedes Benz[ ] 220 (220D 4).

Inquirer Motoring, with the help of BizBest, last Wednesday broke the issue of the rampant technical smuggling of brand new vehicles into the country. One example cited was a cheap-type report of a popular car's low customs and freight (CIF) amounting to only $337 per unit, and of an equally popular SUV's CIF at only P300,000.

BP's version of NHTSA?

AUTO FILES

Amid the alarming increase of traffic accidents all over the country, there is talk of the creation (finally!) of a bureau or government group similar to the US' National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

The move is being initiated by the National Council for Consumer Protection, whose advocacy is seen being supported by the Philippine Medical Association Inc. (the umbrella organization of Compil), the Center for Automotive Technology Corp. and several other government and non-government agencies, the police forces, the Metro Manila Development Authority and other concerned parties. Automotive expert and consumer person Alex P. Lozano has also been tapped to help in the technical aspects of the investigation body. Lozano is currently the chairman of the technical committee Standard 44 of Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The group has made its pitch with the Department of Transportation and Communications and other government agencies. Transportation undersecretary Arnold Lozano initiated the meeting).

Lozano, in a recent interview with this writer, explains that the investigative group and the recommendations/reports would be similar to the data and findings he had been submitting to Inquirer Motoring, during the past decade that had been the basis of many analytical stories about dangerous trucks and other vehicles.

"There's an official order, but this forensic crash investigation group would be like the Boss Nonoy of the Clean Operation), so I would name my group as the 'Nonoy of the Crash Operation'," quipped Lozano.

Ethanol-free fuel, please!

Some disgruntled individuals (mostly auto enthusiasts) have formed a group aiming to seek an audience with the oil companies to demand their freedom of choice to the fuels available in the market. Their main issue: Make ethanol-free fuels available in the market. (More on this in the coming weeks.)

Audi worldwide sales surge by 22 percent

AUDI AG delivered around 465,300 cars worldwide in August, an increase in sales of some 22 percent on the prior-year month. Sales figures for the first eight months of the year were around 18 percent higher than for the same period of 2009. Audi achieved growth in all major markets in August, posting new record figures to the United States and China.

Sales in Germany and in the rest of Europe as a whole also went up significantly.

"We are experiencing a considerable rise in demand in Germany," commented Peter Schwarzenbauer, member of the board of management for marketing and sales at Audi AG. "For the launch of the Audi A1 we recorded the highest-ever number of visitors during the first weekend. Over the mid-five months, we are expecting sales to go up further on our domestic market."

Within the Audi A1 hit the German market at the end of August, over 200,000 vehicles were registered in the first seven months of the year. Sales in Western Europe (without Germany) were up 11 percent.

Sales in the Asia-Pacific region rose by around 50 percent in the first eight months of the year. In China, Audi sold around 200,000 cars in the period under review, an increase of around 60 percent. Audi achieved growth rates of around 30 percent in Japan and South Korea.

In the United States, sales figures were up by 14 percent to a total of 91,102 cars.

The Audi Group sold around 850,500 cars in the first half of 2009. The company posted revenue of 20.6 billion euros and an operating profit of 1.8 billion euros. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Györ (Hungary), Changchun (China), and Brussels (Belgium). Audi is active in more than 100 markets worldwide.

Rave for it up th

By Neva N. Salazar

[illegible] you when the Yaris made its global debut in the early '90s? Maybe you were driving another ordinary sedan, severely lamenting at another vehicle that had the ability to take you to an out-of-city experience.

When the Yaris entered the market, it wasted no time creating a new niche for itself and taking its buyers out for a spin off the urban grid, and collecting heaps of praises from the auto critics. Motoring journalists Richard Holloway and Martin Buckley in their book "The A-Z of Cars" that chronicled the most iconic motor vehicles ever built, put the Yaris as "one of the greatest automobiles ever made," a rare place in motoring history it shared with fellow Toyotas creations the RAV4, Supra Turbo and the pioneering hybrid Prius.

The mini SUV aside from its trailblazing design, gave its drivers and passengers new experiences in interior amenities and excellent driving performance.

Holloway and Buckley wrote that the Yaris "simply combined the snappy acceleration and nippy handling of a sporty hatchback with the looks and high driving position of a soft-roader." It was a formula that other manufacturers, notably Suzuki in its SX4 and the sophisticated Land Rover via its Freelander eventually worked to follow.

Auto observers in the UK over a decade ago said that when it was introduced, industry analysts weren't sure how to categorize the Toyota RAV4. Although it wasn't the first one, the success of the mini SUV helped start a trend. Other automotive brands have come up with their own take on compact crossover SUVs such as the Hyundai Suzuki Grand Vitara and the Subaru Forester.

Holloway and Buckley explained that before Rav4 came into the scene, the vast majority of 4x4 vehicles had heavy separate chassis and long travel suspensions. As most cars, came off modern bonded panels, were more streamlined, oversized and uncommercial, and less 'Shanty-town vehicles.'

They wrote further that Toyota correctly figured out that it was the looks and driving position that attracted buyers (particularly women) who would otherwise not have considered a 4x4.

Toyota's use of what is part of an ordinary Toyota road car as the basis of a 4x4 proved to be the winning partner for an innovative design that ultimately turned out to be an ideal urban runaround.

But the Rav4, whose name is the shortened "Recreational Active Vehicle 4-Wheel," did have its share of problems as well, most recently in January this year when it was included by Toyota Motor Manila in voluntary safety recall to fix an accelerator problem although the units sold in the Philippines, as claimed by Toyota Motor Philippines, were not affected by the recall.

39,000 km on the

Besides Motor[illegible] acquainted with [illegible] rock of the Rav4. [illegible] this review got [illegible] currently was over [illegible] 39,000 km logged [illegible] a new born the [illegible] being driven by [illegible] zooming inside [illegible] and down, wiper [illegible] glassrooms, and [illegible] that would influence [illegible] over the many [illegible] many of them in [illegible] got old, and [illegible]

But, what the [illegible] means, when you [illegible] a car, no matter [illegible] owner is a real [illegible]

ne mountains

Test Drive

THESE Rogue riders in Banaue, Province seem to revel in the Rav4. But can they see it on their rear-view mirrors?

odometer

...ly got to ...'s home town. ...ough the test unit ... the latest version, a ... newest, with over ... kilometers. And ... an eclectic mixture of ... rough and rowdy ... scratches here ... dudes smoking ... dust underneath ... the unit had gone ... bales and bumps, ... dirty Mill, luminous ...

...ell, just like its ... good vibes with ... old it is, there ... between the ... of cars.

The Rav4 was particularly victorious on trip when we visited the mountain passes of Banaue and Mountain Province. Taking advantage of its push-button four-wheel drive lock feature to an idiot proof as can be, we raced to stop and shift into 4-wheel drive lever, we were delighted with its enduring like ride despite being on an off-road environment.

In taking on alternately paved and unpaved roads, the acceleration and transmission response of the Rav4 was satisfying and reassuring. The 4-speed shifts were smooth, as well as the transition from two-wheel to four-wheel drive, and vice versa.

Everything inside the Rav4 cockpit is "idiot proof," as what its makers intended it to be. From the rear adjustable seats, to the dashboard instrumentation clusters, to the audio entertainment system, to the shifting, all of these required the minimum number of brain cells to operate, so that the driver and passengers could concentrate on enjoying the trip itself.

And true to its obsession of being a recreational activity vehicle, the Rav4's interior space lends itself to some versatile uses. By folding the rear passenger seat, two bikes can be stacked in. It's a no-brainer for young concrete jungle hunters who become weekend off-road warriors.

What does it cost to drive this eye-catching mini SUV? Checkout the competitors' dealers and compare it with your existing what parts cheap. We entrance, though, that cost is only one of the factors of ...

Lito Thelma Simon Sarjoso

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Debenhams introduces bold, witty line of renowned UK designer

DEBENHAMS INTRODUCES Principles by Ben de Lisi, a new luxury range created exclusively for Debenhams by renowned London designer Ben de Lisi.

The line carries elegant womenswear and iconic range of reworked classic elegant pieces.

De Lisi's style has been embraced by the world of fashion and interiors. His designs are characterised by beautiful fabrics, luxurious details and vibrant color palette to create a look that is sexy and modern.

Acclaimed in the British fashion scene, de Lisi has won the coveted British Glamour Designer of the Year award in 1994 and 1995. His premiere collection, Principles by Ben de Lisi, has become one of the largest selling brands in the Womenswear Designers at Debenhams. The affordable range is the modern woman's complete wardrobe.

BUSINESS 12

■ Mike dela Rosa's bedroom with a view /C2

THE VIEW from the garden looking into the bedroom is framed by antique wooden louvers and Indonesian furniture.

Fashion designer Mike de la Rosa creates his bedroom with a view by using the principles of harmony to blend the indoors and the outdoors

A VIEW of the outdoor garden from Mike's bedroom

THE MOLAVE cable and bean bag allow for easy and relaxed entertaining with family and friends.

Garden in a bedroom

By Gianna Aquino
Contributor

A BEDROOM and a garden make an unbeatable combination. There's nothing like having a garden near your bedroom, whether it's a glassed-in pocket garden or an unpartitioned one with some potted plants and rocks positioned on a grass patch beside a firewall.

More often, the extension of a lanai was planned to be just the outdoors, blending those with the interiors usually meant to create wide overhanging eaves. In a few more recent cases, making the outdoors an overall creation in one would the interiors of a house, has become a delightful design challenge.

Fashion designer Mike de la Rosa's bedroom is an area of the house that serves many functions, from restful sleep to wide-ranging positioning and casual entertaining.

"The garden has become an extension of my bedroom and combines living areas, recreation areas and much more. It's exciting to make both areas work together in creating another outdoor room. If planned wisely, it becomes a fulfilling exercise," he says.

"The bedroom that opens up to the garden provides a soothing retreat for Mike whose 24/6 workweek leaves him with Sundays for rest and relaxation.

"I can slide the doors shut and retreat in to a quiet cocoon, or leave the doors open so I can look out to my garden and enjoy the fruits of my hobby gardening. I love having a few friends or family over for quick easy weekends over or just open-end cocktails."

To create harmony between the outdoors and indoors, Mike anchored the bedroom to the garden with a bamboo. The main feature is a long wooden table that sizes 1.8. The texture allows him to slow down, enjoy meals with family and friends. It also doubles as a transition area between the bedroom and the garden. It has become a natural gathering spot.

The most important aspects of this space are its laid back ease and its friendly attitude. You are immediately relaxed and at the same time in touch with nature.

Reprinted from Cocoon Magazine. Annotated some

Create your outdoor room

- Check your natural surroundings. See where the sun rises and where it sets, check which is your dry- and wind-blown.
- Check the natural light at different points of the day and arrange your furniture around that.
- Define your boundaries and space (partitions walls, arches, passageways, distance in the landscape by using plants and terrain) if materials that are withstand the outdoors.
- Make provisions for electrical outlets and water sources.
- Use materials that blend with each other indoors or outdoors.
- Reference leading inside need to blend with others all (window and so) basic material choices; wood, watch cord stone to date paint tiles.
- You can use your remaining walls as good others by having doors three lines in the open space and, therefore, create the "walls" of the room.
- Trust you've created your outdoor room, enjoy it every day and every chance you get. Treat it like a room, not just a visual term.

THE BED stands against a red accent wall and is a foil to the yellow outdoor walls.

Comfort or support? New boutique highlights technical stuff of mattress

By Paola Marinay
Contributor

BACKCARE Advance 5.000 Super Pillow Top features a cashmere bath on pillow-top duvet offers comfort with the right amount of support.

WITH today's stressful lifestyle, a sound sleep is a luxury. You'll be surprised how a quality mattress could be a key to enjoying such luxury.

There's a new specialty boutique devoted to quality bedding.

Simmons Gallery showcases products by a 140-year-old Atlanta-based bedding and mattress manufacturer.

"Simmons is highly praised for combining aesthetic and practical beauty in its products," says George Lowmezos, managing director of Bedscape Corp., authorized retailer for Simmons.

At the core of the Simmons mattress is the legendary Beautyrest Pocketed Coil System, composed of individually wrapped, pre-compressed barrel-shaped coil springs made from high-tensile steel coils. These coils work together to eliminate the transfer of movement where one is sleeping with company, and give superior comfort and support while contouring to the body shape of the occupants.

Simmons' mattresses come in different brands, each brand defined by the coil construction with which it is coupled. Each brand uses different types of coils, foams and fibers, including latex, viscoelastic memory foam, wool, silk and cashmere fibers. Each combination of materials produces a different feel, making one mattress distinct from the other.

The Simmons Beautyrest mattress is covered to suppress motion. PSS is innovative pocketed coil, advanced memory foam, revolutionary cover, soft design, and Triton foundation, it provides consistent comfort, superior body distribution, and maximum support.

For those who prefer support to comfort, Simmons BackCare Original and Advance Series has a thinner and tighter sleep surface. Result: It has a firm to non-support system and ergonomic, which is calibrated to match the five zones in the body—upper back, lumbar, hips, thighs and lower legs. These parts are differently energized, thus requiring different amounts of support to achieve ideal spinal alignment.

Simmons Gallery has retail consultants trained to ask the right questions before recommending a mattress which best suits a customer's needs.

BEAUTYREST Recovery with a plush top design that provides additional comfort and a pillow bed, yet maintains firm support and foundation.

Debenhams introduces bold, witty line of renowned UK designer

From page C1

from functional workwear to comfortable yet sleek weekend wear.

The womenswear line is a rich mix of textures and fabrics like wool, leather and silk combined in a warm palette of camel, chocolate and tan complemented with vibrant shades of blue. De Liel's signature pieces include graphic striped knits and color block sweaters in classic camel and black combinations. For more formal events, Principles' latest line features metallic finishes, linear beaded pieces and jersey dresses.

For homes, de Liel is all about daring designs for the modern home. His Skyline bed linen set for any chic dwelling has hand-drawn iconic buildings of the London landscape, on a backdrop of citrus yellow. Text

TURQUOISE champagne flute

TURQUOISE bed linen set

BEN de Liel "Skyline" bed linen set.

BEN de Liel lime colored vase and wicks and Red Circles towel

DOG lamp

100 great gadgets to be won!

GADGETS RAFFLE

at

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

and WESTGATE

This event is made possible by EASTWESTBANK

FILINVEST

UE marks 64th foundation anniversary

UE MANILA The executive director Jesus T. Tanchoco Jr., UE's 64th Foundation Anniversary dancing competition chair, and UE Legazpi chancellor Federico Lorenzo Jr., co-chair, preside over the committee's meeting, finalizing preparations for the month-long The night-day festivities anniversary on Sept. 19–20 and 23. Tanchoco said the student UE students, faculty, officers, employees and alumni to participate in the celebration, especially the UE Alumni Grand Homecoming Ball. "As an anniversary celebrations and alumni homecoming could be a concert at the UE web site, www.ue.edu.ph.

Hazenberg in Manila

De Hazenberg of Netherlands will be in Manila for a floral seminar on Sept. 19–19 at the auditorium of Daughters of St. Paul, 2006 Dr. Hizon St., Hizon Cite. Call 890-8629, 563-0827 or 913-0947.

Anime festival

The Best of Anime 2013, slated on Sept. 13 at Freedom Room 1 at the SMX Convention Center, features special premieres that cover the various genres of anime. The Best of Anime 2013 is a co-hosted event of the Manila International Book Fair which runs from Sept. 11–18 at the SMX Convention Center. For details, call 893-0001 or 896-0822, or e-mail info@animemanila.com.

Flower arrangement seminar

The Golden Passion Skills and Development Programs will conduct a one-day seminar on Flower arrangement on Sept. 15 at the PTTC, Department of Trade and Industry, Roxas Blvd., Manila cor. Ibn Sa Pinat Ave., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

The workshop seminar covers the basic principles of floral design and arrangement, identifying and working with fresh cut flowers and foliage. Participants will be taught how to make the long and low arrangement for weddings, debut, special events and personal arrangement such as bouquet, corsage, etc. Covering information, cooling and step-by-step guidelines on how to take care and maintain of flower base which will not be discussed.

Materials, handouts and hand flowers to be used will be provided, including lunch and snacks and certificate of training.

Call 456-7800/421-1677, 38 5-0100, or 422-1507 or log on to www.Golden SeasonsBelle.com.

Fine dining etiquette program

Rebeth Sheng-Lu offers the workshop in "fine dining with image enhancement and etiquette consultant Lia Bernardo. Guests can acquire the skills to develop their demeanor from simply eating to fine dining in one practical session. 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. with a six-course lunch menu and wine. The Fine Dining Etiquette sessions available for P2,500 on the following Saturdays: Sept. 28 and Oct. 23.

Fine Dining Etiquette includes a lunch, dining experience, which will educate guests on the basics of formal settings and give them a familiarity with flatware, china and glassware and their appropriate use. The step-by-step hands-on session with Bernardo will cover table setting and eating "difficult" food, as well as how to hold wine as a guest or hostess, social cocktail dining or entertaining. It will be a perfect opportunity to pose etiquette questions about awkward moments, such as dropping a fork on the floor or which utensil to use or how to wine it.

Limited slots are available. Call 89 3-8888 local 1488 or 7588.

What's Up

Asiana's new cuisine

Asiana Airlines (OZ) is only just new menu with developed in consultation with celebrity Korean chef Edward Kwon. Chef Kwon is the head chef of the seven-star Burj Al Arab luxury hotel in Dubai. His career includes chefs at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in the UK. He was also dubbed "Iron Chef Two Young Chefs" in 2003 by the American Culinary Federation.

Chef Kwon created the "Rosemary-Crusted Halibut with Citrus Mashed Potatoes" the Business Class menu. The fish is crusted and cooked to a magnetic flavor to recipe. Butterfly salad, Chive-flavored mashed potatoes have complete the dish. He also developed Slow-Cooked Chicken, Onion Puree, Crushed Potatoes and Green Peas Au Jus for Travel Class. The chicken breast is slowly cooked in low temperature to preserve its juices. Chili-paste and grape juice are side dishes low calorie additions to the dish.

Business Class will also have seasonal greens, crispy bacon, boiled potatoes and truffled cream for its salad, and chivalrous soup dish called Pound Mushroom Velouté Eggplant Caviar and Pickled Bell Sauce.

Travel Class and Golden Blossom Economy Style Pampanga, a common Italian salad that has been has transformed with asian ingredients. Plus, he has also created Seafood Drecher, with Shrimp and dressed Mussel. It is a Peruvian dish inspired by ceviche Asian style by adding orange and grated flavors to spice the fishy smell of seafood. Dessert is the smooth tasting White Chocolate Panna Cotta with Berries.

Mid-autumn moon fest

Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon season at Manila Pavilion's executive Chinese chef Lee Yee Fong plays out a spread of Oriental treasures at its Wakyan Japanese restaurant Peony Garden until Sept. 30.

Mid-Autumn set menus, regular a la carte and set menus are also offered daily. Regular set menus start at P3,888 for a table of 10 persons. Menus also with a variety of delectable flavors are also available on weekdays from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at Palacio. Call 526-1212 extension 2200 (Peony Suites) and 2332 (Pavilion).

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

SHELL-
self service-
recommendations
and accent pieces in
Danville

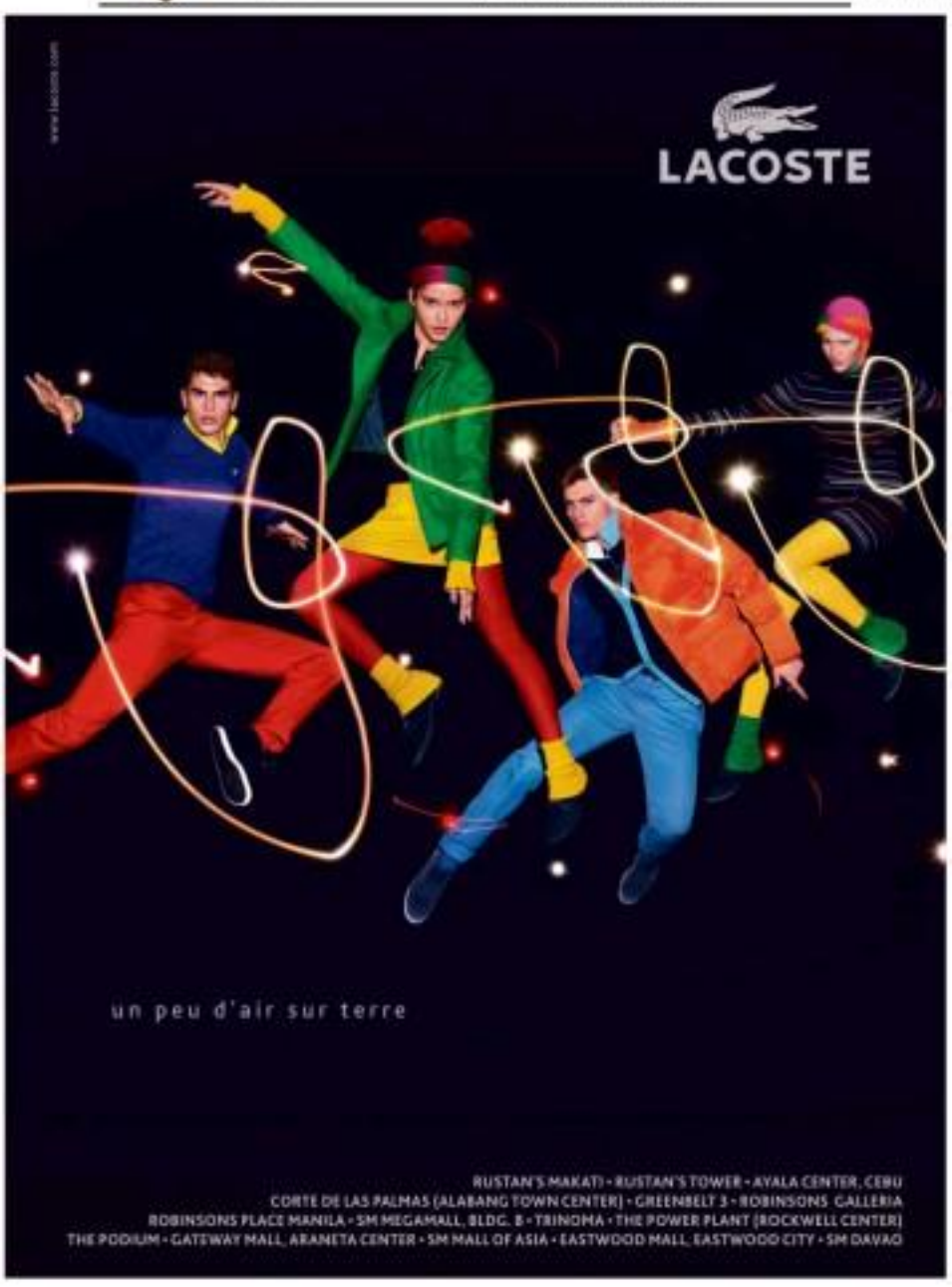
Filipino home designs find a bustling local market

Top exporters —including one for Ralph Lauren—show what they can do in their mall stores

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHILE ALL the attention and publicity seem to be centered on Greenbelt 5's first two floors, particularly its celebrated "Piazza Zobel" composed of RTW shops, several Filipino manufacturers, exporters and designers of home furnishings and accessories on the third level have been quietly making inroads for several successes now supplying the needs of Metro Manila's booming condo market.

The group includes Danville, Home, Miguel Aguiar, Homeworks, Pfaff and Philippe & Bill. Most of their establishments became big in export before establishing their local presence.



PYJAMYS: Rustic and darkred modern outdoor cushions adorn several statement-shaped frames

NESTERS: colors such as black, brown and copper are all the more suitable colors, but Miguel Aguas can do pieces in whatever color the client fancies.

SHADES: draws inspiration from organic shapes in his latest collection of accent pieces.

Filipino home . . .

From page B1

The colors and ideas they offer, mostly inspired and fine-tuned, no doubt, by their initial exposure abroad, have turned Greenbelt 5's home store into a haven for locally made but high-quality home items.

Pajamas & Bed aced to supply covers, runners coined by Ralph Lauren. Dubbed to editorial or campaign furniture, the canvas and vintage-looking pieces are inspired mostly by items used by grannies and grannies' brothers once might think.

Brian Akala, owner and chief designer of locally-tailor, Peter & Paul abroad), has been on export for almost two decades now. In summer days, among other items, housed canvas and duvets measured with bits and pieces of polished chalk, including the pricey black lip, uneven and hand-sewed stuff is humongous.

The company also does wall hangings and some pieces suitable for indoor/outdoor use. Each double is roll-to-order basis.

"The trend is to make smaller versions of big items we sell abroad," said Akala. "Not only do they sell less, they fit better in urban dwellings with smaller square units in townhouses and condo units."

MIRADA: made from a series of leather-bound picture frames by Gracenote

DOMICILLO'S bedroom showcases consists of pinewy, chest, king-size bed and wrought-iron wall accents

WROUGHT-IRON framed mirrors at Agnes' Greenbelt 5 shop

DOMICILLO'S bamboo accessories

While big, cubicle-size houses used to make up a bigger chunk of the local furniture scene a few years ago, the units is now town-houses, bigger, stand-alone dwellings and condo units.

Akala is a veteran of trade shows abroad, most widely those held in Frankfurt and Milan. They'd see the potential of the local market every time they joined Manila FAME, the annual buyers' show highlighting the best furniture designs in home furnishings and home accessories.

Growing local market

"Usually, the last two days of Manila FAME are open to the public," said Akala. "Filipinos would then ask us where they could buy our products."

Apart from selling them items on display on the last day most of the Filipino exhibitors didn't have local outlets.

"Much as I wanted to cater to local demand, there simply wasn't enough volume back then," said Akala.

But that started to change early in the new millennium as a growing number of Filipinos with enough cash to spare became more exposed to modern home items designed and produced overseas.

"Filipinos have become so exposed to foreign magazines and the Internet," he added. "They have a desire after all what they want. If we don't step in to fill the void, chances are someone else will."

Although Pajamas, which is into garden figures, made of "sawa" or lightweight straw and woven plastic furniture pieces for the home, relies heavily on the foreign market, its local market has grown to a point where it can no longer be ignored.

"Close to 20 percent of our products are now meant for local buyers," said company CEO Evelyn Velasco.

Pagan renditions

These days, Bernal (a.k.a. Herb Pagsisihan) is into classic and stylized renditions of Greek and Roman figures and larger than-life Buddhas and Hindu deities aside from the usual items he carves out of wood and finishes. Dressed for these items, especially Eastern religious figures, are picked up in exotic venues both here and abroad, said Velasco.

"Our products are different from those made of ordinary concrete," she added. "They're surprisingly light yet sturdy. You don't need half a dozen men to move a single piece."

Miguel Aguas, owner and chief designer of a store he named after himself, was initially motivated to cater to the local market by the need to express himself. His factory in Pampanga does powder-coated wrought-iron pieces of anything and everything classic with a twist to color.

His Greenbelt 5 store has, among other items, framed mirrors and organic-inspired centerpieces and wall hangings done mostly in matte double metal in brown, black and copper.

"These items are meant to give potential buyers an idea of what we can do," he said.

EASTERN deity is showcased Sarah by Pajamas

It's a fine idea to display masterpieces in a model unit

FEDERICO Aguilar Alcuaz's "Two Horses," oil on canvas

JAVIER Sanso with his work "Celestial Waters," acrylic on canvas

Edades showcases Sanso and other Filipino masters

By Basil V. de Jesus
Contributor

LOURDES LOBI, a local resident in a casual brown short-sleeve shirt, leaned home midday in at the model unit of Edades Towers Garden and Villas at The Sandy Court of Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City. It is as opposed to be a sunny day but blame climate change, a monsoon downpour from maple everyone's schedule.

Sorry I kept on walking around I thought I was lost," Lobi says, smiling as the glass door is shut behind him and the noise of the rain disappears.

Sanso is one of the featured masters in the exhibit running until Sept. 26 at Edades. "Masters at Edades" is organized by Rockwell Land with Edades Joaquin. It follows the successful Edades exhibit and auction in July featuring the works of the Bellas of Modern Philippine Art.

This exhibit—a total of 30 artworks—has a dream team. Besides Sanso, the hands of works by the lawyer of which is "Celestial Waters," 115.25x91.25 inches, acrylic on canvas. In silver the shining tones, showing what looked like rains of a brokenwater or an old pool, covered with greenish yellow moss, mixed a bluish background of waves and the beclouded skyline.

Sanso has engaging stories about his co-exhibitors.

Dimensions not any more here as the Executive of the Philippines, where I took up fine arts," he recounts. "He was very influential and inspiring to his students but he never imposed his style on us. We all aspired to be like him but I can't. He let us find our own style and I am very thankful for that."

Alcuaz's two oils and only featured work in the exhibit is the very famous "Floating Rice," oil on canvas, measuring 25.5x20.5 in. Curator Joel Trotter, the group managing director of the firm Joaquin, told us the painting was used by the Department of Tourism in the 1980s campaigns. It has the signature dramatic images of Iconic elegantly doing their chores in the rice field.

"Alcuaz was my schoolmate but I think I was two years ahead of him. I met him when the college of fine arts was already transferred to Diliman from the Padre Faura campus," says Sanso.

Centerpiece

Alcuaz's "Five Horses," 25.75x34.5 in., oil on canvas, is the centerpiece. Placed in the receiving area, it shows three women (a long 1980 century gown, lean and elegant with big hats, looking outside the window. Sanso has three other works. One is titled 1971, "Still Life with Green Apples" 17x23.5 in, and two untitled abstracts look done in 1993.

Though he was based in France for about 10 years, Sanso always made it a point to visit the Philippines almost every year and get in touch with other artists. He describes the exhibitor Ang Kiukok as our friend. Ang Kiukok has only one artwork "Mother and Child," 39.5x23.5 in., dated 1991.

Incidentally, the late artist H.R. Ocampo's one and only work is also titled "Mother & Child" 29.5x23.25 in, dated 1978.

Lizi has three works on display: "Birds and Birds" (1997), "Musicians" (1999), and "Imagining Landscape" (2004). Sanso says he's an acquaintance and he's very much thankful to the man. "I only remember he was with [Cesar] Legaspi on a scholarship in Mikkeli. He's older than I. We met each other in his gallery. I was among the 'lucky' to discourse my works there when it was in Makati or Ayala. Very nice gallerist," says Sanso.

Orbita has four colored ceramic plates. "He is the only one in the world who works in this particular technique. He carves or sculpts on plates and they look like jewelry," Trotter says.

"His sculpture actually captures light, which is very unique," adds Sanso, who particular is one of the most traveled living masters nowadays.

"Angelito Antonio has only one work, an enamel on canvas titled, 'Afternoon Siesta.' Similar, Lydia Velasco has two, 'Lilies in the Garden,' and 'Woman with Flowers.' Primi also has two works, 'Still Life with Red Windmelons and Flowers' and 'Two Fishes.'"

Not the usual exhibit

Trotter emphasized that it's not the usual art exhibit because they're able to put our masters who have their own voices.

"It's not important that there's an abstract or from Ocampo or an expressionist from Ang Kiukok and so on, the common thread is that they're all masters and it's a great opportunity for visitors, especially those who live in Rockwell, to see multiple works of Filipino masters and, hopefully, bring them home," says Trotter.

We asked Sanso what if one of these days, Rockwell Land comes a project named after him and in return, he'd get a flat like the model unit.

"Oh, I'd prefer to live long enough to enjoy that," says the only Spanish-Filipino artist awarded the Presidential Medal of Merit of the Philippines, the Order of Chevalier from the French Government and the Knights Cross of Isabella from King Juan Carlos of Spain.

He designed the circular fountain in the south entrance of Powerplant mall, the one in front of Zara.

The ever vibrant Sanso says, "At least I have a fountain at Rockwell named after me and I live in are many people sitting around it."

"Masters at Edades" runs until October Sept. 26. For inquiries, call 7855-0888 or visit www.edades.com. Edades.

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LIFESTYLE Parenting

When our parents are old and easy to take for granted

They were once the world to us. Then it happened—we grew up

By Marnea Benipayo
Contributor

MY BROTHER called me. "We need to have a meeting."

I asked, "What about?"

"It's about mama."

That was the only time I was told what was to happen. Mom would have surgery that week. My brothers knew about it a couple of weeks back. But no one told me. That night, I heard the whole story and why I was the last to know. Mom thought I had too much on my hands already so that the seven others her might only cause me more stress.

It's really no surprise why some parents choose not to tell their children their health problems. I know there is a valid reason but sometimes we wish we could've been told earlier, so that it doesn't come to us as a shock.

Mom has had her share of challenges and ups and downs. Ever since my father passed away 20 years ago, we've felt how she's missed dad. She has devoted her life to rearing us the best way she could. Since my brothers and I got married, she has always been supportive even in the smallest things.

And, of course, there were occasional disagreements that brought to light the generation gap.

But there were also the times I have learned the most.

Creating the gap

The gap happens not only between us and our children, but also between us and our own parents. From birth, we have lived under their guidance and rules. They were the world to us. That it happened—we grew up.

When we step into another stage of our lives (whether it's career, starting a family or going through a major change), we often feel that we are independent enough to make our own decisions.

The fact that we and our parents are adults prods us to expect that they should be able to think like we do. And when conflict arises, we evaluate them from our own perspective of how we adult should behave.

Imagine a shelf already filled with books. When new books start to arrive, and space has to be made for them on that shelf, what happens? Whether you remove the old books or retain your favorites, still, some books must go. Some of us may have unconsciously tossed the old and has favorite books to our own parents.

Reasons for being

Yet, sometimes take them for granted, without wondering that at their age, they have worries too: health, memory gaps and even low mobility—there are a lot of things they can't do anymore.

They may look back on their lives, how they lived in their youth, maybe even feel some regret. In all this, whether they admit it or not, they turn to us for comfort.

They may not be the decision-makers anymore, but our parents still want to be heard and acknowledged. If they tend to be tedious and callous, it's because they feel left out. Even in their infirmity, they hope they remain vital presence in our lives.

Building bridges

Come to think of it, aren't these the same things we need? Some of us usually forget because we are focused on our spouse and children, responsibilities, financial obligations and other concerns. We take our parents for granted because over the years, we grew used, even if they had a hand in giving us the world to begin with. I don't think we want this to happen as an echo for time comes.

It really doesn't cost anything to tell our parents "Thank you", "I really appreciate this", "I love you, Mom."

It won't cost you to make them feel you

VIEW E2

MASTERCARD'S VP for marketing and member relations Judith Marie David (center), Agnes Aragon and Nanette Regala of BDO

SOUTHBANK Jason Cerro, MasterCard's VP for operations and member relations; Bernie Gilpuso and Cielo Bello of PNC; Chris Perano, MasterCard's VP for acceptance development and member relations; and Mary Vink of AllenBlack

HSBC's women achievers Angelica Martinez and Anya Cajimat; PAL's Nina Klein; HSBC's Malaika Wiles' cyber-smart product marketing manager; vivacious Ria Domingo; and Trisha Ramos of HSBC

METROBANK'S Phoebe Clemeca and Aileen Valbuena with MasterCard's Rachelle Mangia

EASTWEST Bank's Sandra Villaraza and Ana Villaraza of BPI

MASTERCARD Philippines country head Paris Villa-Real; BPI president Cirpi Wenceslao; PAL's Juliliand PR for marketing support Bong Cruz; and BPI SVP and cards issuing business head Gideon Go

Travel to Hong Kong and San Francisco with MasterCard and PAL promotions

A SOOTHING welcome set by Lorenzo, sculptured and self-educated runner and pianist, caught the revelers' full attention, dahling.

IT IS ALWAYS exciting to travel, dahlings. Now it's even awesome as Swire, Philippine Airlines and MasterCard launched the Soaring Eagles and Barkada Flights, which give cardholders the chance to win Mabuhay Miles and round-trip tickets to any of PAL destinations.

Held at Makati Shangri-La, to win attended by hotshot hosts from PALs named opposites and MasterCard's heavyweight that included PAL VP for consumer management Tedy Ingalao, and senior assistant VP for corporate e-business Bobby Diaz de Rivera, pictured.

For the Soaring Eagles promotion, four lucky cardholders with only 10,000 Mabuhay Miles and cardless from more will have a chance to win 50,000 Mabuhay Miles, while 10 cardholders get to win 30,000 Mabuhay Miles. A free round-trip ticket will be given to the Barkada Flights promotion every time a member's Mabuhay Class or Flying round-trip Business Class tickets purchased using a MasterCard. More details? Go to www.philippineairlines.com or www.mabuhaymiles.com.

The highlights are where 10,000, 15,000 and 50,000 Mabuhay Miles were raffled off to lucky cardholders, which will take you anywhere from Hong Kong to San Francisco.

This super duo, PAL and Swire, will be treating their cardholders to a trip to Hong Kong and back to celebrate the Philippine Airlines' 65th anniversary and Swire's 160th anniversary of the Chamber of Philippines, the national organization of more than 20,000 personalities all over the country.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiz

Photos by Alex Gui Magno
powered by **MAURICE ARNAIZ**

to land share with their chosen memorable museum by travel, ing to some of the world's most popular destinations for free, pahngan.

CPPI 54th anniversary

Things on collector Secretary General Luis L. Alfaro, Jr. of the Republic of Zambia and Chamber of Philanthropy of the Philippines' (CPPI) elected president and his wife, Rosario General Guatemala, to various lawyer Amelia Rosario-Africa, owners of the museum Alfaro chose of personalities, gave dinner at their posh mansion in honor of Philippine Ambassador to Italy for 11 years, Philippe J. Lhuillier of the renowned Cebuano Lhuillier and others after CPPI patron president. To celebrate the 54th anniversary of the Chamber of Philanthropy of the Philippines, the national organization of more than 20,000 personalities all over the country of corporate Ambassador P. Gualberto indicated 11 CPPI board members and their families/directors, pahngan.

After an excellent dinner organized by the hostess with the mostest, Shelbie K., the young super talented Lorenzo, a self-taught tenor, did a touch up, pleasing most concert, dahlings.

Cucay Morai' birthday

The celebration ended in another extravaganza this time at the Ayala Museum, dahlings. It was Cucay Morai's birthday and the museum director Ayala Museum Marian Pastor Roces threw a party for her friends, pahngan.

Cucay's birthday party was a surprise party for her friends, pahngan. She rocks!

Greenbelt Style

It was an international affair! Style dubbed "Greenbelt Style" held during the Fashion Week of 9-10 to kids and adults, dahlings. Kids and teens had their runways of fame when they dashed on the catwalk, showing the latest collections of Aqua, Bench Small Co., Bench, Cottonsoup, Kids of Boys, among others, while their proud and confident parents applauded wildly, pahngan.

To keep the energy up and rolling, Web & Co., Le Marron, and Cupcake Jones served yummy food. It was attended by Ayala Land's Rosario Bautista with Fernando and his wife Ed Dobson, and several SM group heads Ayala Malls Group and Ayala Land Inc., Marketing Management, pahngan.

As always, here it is Greenbelt to give the lowdown on the world of fashion, pahngan.

ROMEN Rosca, Tricia Mirasol, Debbie Ann and Doreen Rivera

LAWYER Jose Bautista (g), Consul of Equatorial Guinea Pedro Nsuman with husband, vice-governor collector, Consulate to the Republic of Gambia Loh Bidaya jr. and son Mary Theresa Abbas o

BANKNOTEMAN and photographer Jose Sarrao with his love and Princess of the Week Cucay Morai and Ellen Adarna

ANNA Karla Mercado and SM country manager Duncan Sarm

ROOT Evangelina, Johnny Sena, Marco Barrera and Miguel Lorrael

ROSEMARIE Bautista, Tita Alcala and Celia Fernandez

LAWYER Arnaud Magno, Isabel Abello and Lina Enriquez

MERRILL and Matt in Capricorn

CAPONE'S tuxedoes Jay Sarrao

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Spain Isidro Cuico Wilson with granddaughter Rocio Barthorning

MICHELLE Pratt-Lim with daughter Miel and our Quiet in the Kids Amateur Collective Show

TINGUE Lopez with son Anton

KAREN Montenarch in kids Diego and Paloma

AYALA Land Inc. senior vice president and Ayala Malls group head Mario Antonino with son-in-law Vilney and grandson Hugo

Mooncake high tea

MAKATI Shangri-La celebrates the Mid-Autumn festival with a variety of the traditional Chinese confection—moon cakes. Until Sept. 22, these round delicacies elegantly encased in an assortment of fine teas can be purchased at the hotel's lobby booth. Guests can also enjoy Mooncake High Tea at the Lobby Lounge. Call 8188888 local 7588/7588 or 840 0888

Live sports

Manila Pavilion Hotel's Escalier Sports Bar presents game watches on the hotel via satellite on Rizal's wide plasma TV screens complemented with pica pica selection and cocktail and alcoholic drinks. Join us for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, live basketball telecasts only begin at 10:30 p.m. 1 a.m. Call 526-2929 extension 2317.

When our parents . . .

Pictorial E2

love them just by holding their hand while you cross the street, while you're talking with them, giving them compliments, hugging them when you are happy or sad, looking at them lovingly while savouring their spare time, or even while arguing, not raising your voice and just calmly explaining your side.

Whatever happens, always learn first—and to do because we always underpass rather than will you so that what comes out of our mouths is not phrased in hurt. If their suggestion is ludicrous, better, let us accept it and thank them.

Let us be more patient and understanding when we wished a situation—why could he/she have said that? How will he/she respond if I answer back like as God array? Is there a need for she is trying to rule? "What would be the proper response to avoid misunderstanding?"

We can't control how our parents think, but we can control how we respond. That we know.

I admire those who have amazing relationship with their parents: utmost relationship is based on trust, communication and unselfishness; those who are able to spend much time with each other and have the opportunity to bridge that gap.

There are so many things I still want to do for my mom. I know many factors limit me, but I could start with this.

My life's bookshelf brims with books, some of which I haven't even read but find pleasure in. Now I will look at my shelf and check if I honestly need to read all those other books. If not, then go, go that the Book of Mom could have more space.

The author is a parental-development speaker and conducts seminars on image architecture, employee motivation and has mom empowerment. She is also an instructor at the School of Fashion and the Arts. E-mail her at marina_bonjour2002@yahoo.com; or visit www.mymicrobarguru.com.

The bed that uses NASA technology

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

IMAGINE YOURSELF ON A SPACE LABIN, lying on a bed feeling utmost relaxed comfort and looking up at the constellations of stars.

The spaceship experience is a comforting come-on of Tempur bed which claims to give one the floating feel.

Relax known as a resilient brand, Tempur has been touting that its body and pillows yield the molecular effect of sleep—it's claimed to relieve its users of sleep problems and aches.

The line has a proprietary material called visco-elastic developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the US originally for its astronauts to relieve them against the tremendous gravitational force during take-off and landing.

The visco-elastic memory foam conforms to the body's contours and goes back to its original shape when the pressure is gone.

Subsequently, the foundation has tapped its potential for consumer use.

Tempur's patented mattresses provide even distribution for weight, yielding to the hips and shoulders while cleaning up the lower back, hence no aching or strains.

Stephen Ko, distributor of high-end appliances and furniture, recalls that a friend who was about aged him to acquire the local retail rights of Tempur. The friend was suffering from sleep apnea and the doctor recommended the bed.

After an encounter with principals, he realized Tempur need was satisfied with the results. It has helped him and other customers with their spine, back, neck and other sleep problems.

Some customers even buy several beds—the average price of a queen size is P108,000. Also there are clients. The Lanes cited, Leticia, Pennoyer, mattress gentle curves, provides high-degree comfort. It is tagged P279,000 for a queen size.

A customer, director of commercial Jose Ibañez, considers a Tempur bed an investment. "After long hours in production and late nights, it's important to get adequate rest for recovery," he says.

He asked chiropractor Marvin Cornejo about buying the right bed.

His opinion, "We spend six to eight hours on the bed. If you do not get proper support at that time, it leads to back pain, muscular or stretched nerve. The critical thing about sleeping is the structure—the firmness of the mattress, the pillow height and sleep position."

"I prefer a firm mattress that provides

STEPHEN Ko, Tempur distributor, says the bed has relieved him of aches caused by scoliosis.

PROMESSA bed with gentle curves for that smooth, sinking feel. MARIE E. MEJOS-ENRIQUEZ

more support for the spine whether it's a high-end or low-end brand. Some people tell a firm mattress and a soft cushion or overlay which negates it. Some friends feel longer than others. If your mattress starts to give in and you wake up in the morning feeling tired with a lot of back pains, then it's time to replace it."

SKINTIGHT: Trinidad Borlaza's armband with jagged, carved lineations, seashell, and shiny Japan Pearls

CLASSIC: Series call to mind sculpted bronze shaped in gold with pearls by Michelline Syjuco

GALLERY: Series has creatures as pattern inspired by the serpent movement, by Micole Whitesides

Filipina comics characters inspire jewelry exhibit

ON SEPT. 20, Fiona, with Ayala Malls, celebrates the beauty and strength of the Filipina by launching three distinct collections by Manila young designers Michelline Syjuco, Joyce Makasiar and Micole Whitesides.

Inspired by popular characters from Filipino comics such as Inang, Darna and Gabriza, the three designers have created collections that exude a vibe of strength while maintaining the feminine undertones.

Syjuco uses her distinctive style to produce what she calls her "wearable sculptures."

Each piece is a work of art that is meticulously handcrafted by the creative hands for this collection. She has chosen to work with metals such as brass, silver and gold, and has incorporated raw crystals, pearls and semiprecious stones to achieve a feel reminiscent of the 80s' glam-metal-era.

Makiniat departs from her traditional designs by taking off from Darna's talisman. She uses black rhodium with yellow gold and rose diamond hue to achieve an otherworldly, galactical feel.

Following the lore of the Filipina talisman, Joyce incorporates reptilian symbols in some pieces, yet she manages to keep her signature style with the unique combination of semiprecious stones.

Whitesides has adopted most craftsmanship techniques. Choosing to work with fashion materials such as beads and semiprecious stones, Whitesides uses highly confined colors—fiery red, gold and bronze for Darna; yellows, oranges and a rendition blue for Dyesebel; silver, bronze and armoring colors green for Gabriza.

"Modern Mythologies" should be a landmark event in celebrating the fusion of fashion with Filipino ethnicity and ingenuity. It proclaims the innate power of the Filipina before she was lit.

"Modern Mythologies" will be launched at an invitational cocktail on Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at Fiona, G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 7574800; fax 7574810; e-mail fiona2@yona.com.

How to get 'stranded' in London

A RSVP prior friend recently changed his e-mail address after somebody hacked his old one and sent the "I am stranded in London..." message. He wrote with grammoon explanations that provide diverse learning to the poor. Some friends, concerned about his plight, replied and then many could not send the £1,000 he "needed."

All he remembered was that he provided information requested in an e-mail purportedly to keep his account active. I got this "warning," too, when I opened my Hotmail account.

The very first time I saw it I started to fill out the form, giving my home address, etc., before I remembered that I did not provide those details when that account was created. Then I noticed a message on top that said some strange error was detected. I scrolled to protect my computer from being identified by the senders.

If the message really came from Hotmail, why did they do that? Now I ignore those warnings. If I could check my mailbox without any problem, then obviously nothing is wrong with my account.

Go, go, go

I just read that Robinsons Land is planning to open 38 Gabriela-style branches in 2011, each an average capacity of 90 rooms. Some places mentioned certainly could use a budget hotel to give visitors an option between the very, very expensive and the cheap, which is hardly an alternative. Other places on the list (just now) is good, there, could use the hotels—period.

The availability of a wide range of recommendations almost anywhere—from booking houses to posh suites—is one reason Thailand is a major tourist destination. Any one, from backpackers to business moguls, would find her options pretty much the kind of something suitable.

Until recently, most places in the country only have the very expensive and the shady. I do not know how Robinsons got an attorney reputation. In the United States, motels are like cases in the desert for exhausted motorists who have long distances.

I can imagine how motels travellers will welcome being able to stay in Robinsons pk. I recently stayed overnight at the one in Iloilo, beside Robinsons Galleria. The rooms was small compared to other hotels but it was clean and comfortable. It had LED television and Wi-Fi access. The room did not have a clothes cabinet but that was not much of a problem since I did not bring an extra wardrobe.

Eating was not allowed in the room, which did not have a refrigerator, but the hallway had small tables for dining. When I was there I had to eat breakfast in one of the fast-food places at the mall. Now Tokyo Café had opened on the ground floor.

So I was checking out, a foreigner waiting for a hotel guest told me what a big convenience it was for people with limited budgets to have Gabriela pk. The Robinsons, a long-time Philippine resident, said he found it distasteful to put so many thousands of guests a day, even if the company was picking up the tab, for a room that was hardly used except for sleeping.

For people coming to Manila on short visits, Gabriela pk, with rates ranging from the very low P300-P1,000, is worth considering. I am sure there are many people like me who, even if they can stay with relatives and friends, would rather stay in a hotel so they can come and go as they please and do not have to accommodate anybody.

The Ilaw Gabriela a conveniently located with SIRT station and bus stops nearby. With a mall nearby, getting around is easier. Otto Ortega, who is in charge of hotel operations, said they had 220 rooms for single and twin occupancy. The hotel also had access for the differently-abled.

Elizabeth D. Gregorio, Robinsons Land Corporation, corporate purchasing manager, said rates for a pool suite also could be slashed as evening shoots go. Some rates are based by hour and demand, she said.

Guests who booked in advance, about two or three months ahead, were more likely to get lower rates.

Send letters to The Consumer, c/o People Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5109 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mayapis de and Yagis Sts., 1204 Makati City, fax 8974783-84; or e-mail thinkit@inquirer.com.ph.

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■ **Team Marian Rivera vs Team Bela Padilla** Dollywood / G1

■ **Arnel Pineda, larger than life** Review /G4

SHOW TIME

Joanna for one night

THE ONE-NIGHT concert "Joanna Amyot: West End Girl" wobilds Sept 18, 8 p.m. at Onstage Greenhills, Mdkti, with guests FILharmonIKA conducted by Gerard Salonga and Ariel Rivera.

Amyot, dubbed the "West End Girl" for having worked in London's theater district for 17 years, first auditioned for "Miss Saigon" and stayed at this for two years. She went on to play Mary Magdalene in "Jesus Christ Superstar," Fantine and Eponine in "Les Miserables," Elsa in "Frozen" and many others on the West End stage.

She has also performed Maria in a Manila production of "West Side Story," and has likewise recorded a pop album, "Try Love," with Jonny Maris.

This will be her first show in Manila this year. Call 891-9999.

Babae sa Baguio, nagsusumigaw at nagtatatalon sa tuwa

Nahuwag ang katahimikan ng isang barangay sa Baguio City nang biglang magbukasmulawan sa sobrang tuwa si Ana Cadiles, 45 years old, nang matukbilaang nanalo siya ng P1 Million sa BIR Anniversary Special Draw na ginanap noong Agosto 31 sa SM San Lazaro, hatid ng Premyo Sa Resibo (PSR).

"Nakaka-overwhelm talaga" anya si Ana na hindi makapaniwalang siya ang bagong mawawaring milyonaryo ng PSR. Pilato niyang gamitin ang premyo sa pagpapalawa ng isang panaliubong ventur para sa mga tao'ma. Dagdag pa ni Ana, "gusto ko ring magbigay din po Singapore kasama ang aking pamilya."

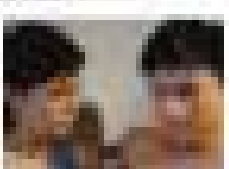
2 years nang naitatali si Ana sa PSR. Sabi niya, "panay ang paglaro natin sa mga kalibgan natin, bakit hindi ko subukang sumali sa PSR, wala naming mawawala." At naghanap ng swerte ang kanyang pagbabakasakali.

Sa October 17, 2010 ang susunod na PSR Sweepstakes Draw. P1 Million at iba pang exciting prizes ang siyak na mapapanalunan ng mga masusuwerteng resibero. Sa pag-text, maaari ring ipasubmit ng instant P5,000, Magtiwan mobile phones at P30 e-load.

Napakadaling sumali. Upang lumahok ang resibo, I-text ang PSR(space)TIN ng OR(space)OR NUMBER(space)AMOUNT ng nakasulat sa resibo, i-send sa 9777 for single entry or 9778 for multiple entries. P2.50 lang per entry. Para sa karagdagang detalye, send PSR Help to 9777.

Tulad ni Ana, huwag palampasin ang pagkakataong mayaman. Upang sumali sa Premyo Sa Resibo, baka dito na ang sumunod na make-jackpot ng P1 Million. Sali lang nang sali, malay mo, swerte mo na!

Criminal Minds



Sarah G on tour; Spinners at

Sub-zero heroes r

AINMENT

Big Dome

eturn

Bollywood is the word

TORONTO—Olivia Newton-John is in talks to do a Bollywood film, she said Friday at the Toronto Film Festival. The Australian actress-singer has rarely appeared in films since her big roles in "Grease" (1978), "Xanadu" (1980) and "Two of a Kind" (1982). Her new effort is a dual-cast Sept. 22, Ivo Michaels' Bollywood musical, "which opened the (film festival) on Thursday, Newton-John plays a New Age mom. /AFP

CHEER FACTOR

LADY Gaga won eight 2010 MTV Video Music Awards including Video of the Year on Sunday.

QUEENIE Padilla is pro-anti: "Peace be friends again."

Acclaimed star has a major, major problem

By the Entertainment staff

ACCLAIMED STAR HAS A MAJOR, major problem: AS dumped Lady Gower and stunked up with her Sick Bedsider.

Unfortunately, BB has a rather unnecessary reputation as "bum-magnet" in his modest circle. In a five-star country club, BB had once been confronted by the Spurned Husband of one of the Married Women he had wooed.

SH caused quite a commotion and AS was scandalized, of course.

Badmouthing post-breakup

After the breakup, the badmouthing.

Influential Gay hustler split up with Harley Rose, after bulking up HS, G2 is determined to break him down. G2 has unrolled a destruction job against HR, calling him a "nano".

G2 claims that, before they became an item, HR was the boy toy of Guy Bernhardt for the same reason. G2 fell out of grace with the bosses and was sacked—which is how HR ended up with G2.

Now G2 claims HR is a good for nothing gigolo. But didn't G2 know that before hooking up with HR?

Claim to fame

Small-town Gigolo wants to balance his work among gay patrons. He connected a faux background, claiming he's the cousin of two popular Female Stars.

That's because SC hails from the same barrio town as Pilar.

Pilar, famously conservative and submissive, would undoubtedly blush should they find out about their alleged cousin's sideline.

Kramer's twin

On TV5 gab fest "Juicy," host IC Montecasa had a laughing fit after realizing that homeboy'd Kramer Sievers had a straw his look-alike.

IC quipped, "Kramer, you look like (choreographer) Debbie Engerer!"

Bianca was unruffled and quickly recovered, in so many words: "That's okay. She's rich. I'd love to be the twin of someone rolling in dough."

Flower guys

A cut flight almost eroded backstage during the taping of a TV show.

When their name for the staff to present flowers to the program's Regular Host, a Guy I remember, what were not invited to that episode, volunteered to do the job—"short of grabbing the bouquet from the show's staff who were too stunned to react," recalled a witness.

When the producers turned down G2 and gave the flowers to Veronic Staff Member (who's also happily gay), G2 was overheard muttering audibly.

It was war of the roses all over again.

Browning battle royale

There's a brewing battle in a major network that can soon turn crummy-smart sour.

Ronnie Mat is unhappy (jealous of Smart fave?) and—soon one of the weeks. Will PR follow in the footsteps of TV Personality, a sweet-crooning, who also verged (and won) a legal battle with the same company?

Thing is, it's the studio (that's allegedly readying a number of cases against PR).

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goldfests on TV (And why we are missed, if we are moved.)

● **Mark Herras** can his health problems that pushed him to take a leave from GMA-7 shows.

"Makakita 'yung doctor ito ng mamas sa kidney na hindi normal anyone. May parasit lang na nanirat at pinakagraba na makita ay severe over-fatigue and insomnia. Kaya ilang linggo nakakatulog ng isang oras 'yung tapos. Sa kaya rin ako bumaba ng timbang from 52 to 47 kilos," (Gosh, "severe over-fatigue"? Baka pa ayo?)

● **Shawn Hacken** on having a girlfriend:

"Career po muna talaga. Ilang taon ko na ginagawa 'to. Ayaw ko pa ng girlfriend, parang 1 lay down. Ako dami na nasa sa aking area kung sakali pasok na ng love life. Pero 'di sa ngayon. Siguro next year," (Hmm... "siguro" next year, ganoon ka rapan.)

● **Selena Arvilla**, asked if she feared public perception about her planned lesbian marriage in the US:

"Well, honestly marrying [one] doon sa states sa Pilipinas naman, hindi naman tayo ganoon ka open." (Baka naman all-exposure.)

● **Queenie Padilla's** message to pro-ers Bobie Padilla and Carol Sicangco:

"Sana po magkaintindihan na po kayong dalawa at bumalik po 'yung friendship niyo dati and sana po kung ano man 'yung differences niyo o problema sa kati ba, sana po ayos na po." (Is that the words, "Please stop bickering in public"?)

● **Gerald Anderson** on the rumored break-up of his love-team with **Kim Chiu**:

"Hindi talaga, siyempre Kimerald's a love team at 'yung malaganan naman for four years and solo-n kaming maanpa sa anbring supporting lovejoy sa amin." (Walang personalan?)

● **Dyo Seitz**, asked how many children he wants to have with Kristine Hermosa:

"If ever, maximum ng siguro 10 ... basketball team." (Ano, ejemplo-kot?)

● **Kristine's reaction:**

"Wrecht! Napalot ako dun! Another invention, hindi ko alam kung ... dalawa lang. Hindi ko kaya ... hindi ko talaga alam." (Uh-oh.)

Gerry Pick

(Emerald, The Buzz, Entertainment Live, Paparazzi, Showbiz Central)

COMING soon: Get'Zoren Legaspi! The actor who hosts "Kitchen Basics" on QTV recently finished a short course at the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila. His whole family turned up on graduation day (from left) twin-tots Cassy and Mary and wife Carmina.

ENTERTAINMENT

HEAD-TURNERS BY PINOY DESIGNERS At the recent Emmy Awards, Kyra Sedgwick (right) wore a gown by Monique Lhuillier; Mercy Harris by Oliver Tolentino.

Team Marian vs Team Bela

THE CONTROVERSY brewing Marian Rivera, who has allegedly been bullying and threatening her "Endless Love" rivalee Bela Padilla, has escalated.

Bela's fresh start, Eat Pedilla (Bood's mom) has taken up the cudgels for her sister. "Malaki na kasi si Bela. Matagal na niya dinadamdam ang pagbabanta at pagsigaw ni Marian sa Manila Peninsula na 'yung kinukuha niya si Dr. Love—dun's ... Anna at Marian magmg alamgin pero sa mga mediado sa kanya. Kung bibitiw pa ito, bitin sa horny na lang si Marian magpaliwanag."

Marian's camp would rather not comment. They insist that she's just being cared for Bela's publicity.

But how long can Marian downplay the negative stories about her? No amount of damage control can salvage a repeat offender. Does she regard the heroine rivalee to go away by ignoring them? Search has a way of creeping through, no matter how hard we try to cover it up with glitz and glamorous.

Starstruck

Bella Gutierrez turned into a fan when she interviewed Korean-American Hollywood star Daniel Henney, who's shooting a movie here with KZ Tuparan director Raise.

"I was floored when he asked me to sign the copy of a magazine that I gave him with me on the cover," she said. "First time ako ma-starstruck sang ganito. He's so hot and gorgeous!"

"I dared him 'What if Daniel counts you?' Bella could not stop blushing. I didn't let mine down. "Who's dated: Carrie Brown or Daniel?" She laughed and blurted out, "No comment."

Will Henney score for her luxury?

High spirits

Kevin Gobbin has split up with his Australia-based GF but he was in high spirits at the Cosmo bachelor bash. Here is to great drops. Hopefully, his heart will be in better shape, too.

Back together?

Alyar Atwaters was spotted with Rich Asuncion in a bar after the Cooler event. Did they just bump into each other or are they back together? Alyar's run-up with Kris Bernal is on greater anxiety. Is it the right time for Rich and Alyar's back-burner romance to flare up?

Resubelters

Nobody says it like The **resubelte** Romo. He vocally mocked an ap where the star can post in "Pinoyese"; her message to **Angeli Tabuena** was:

"Di nagpaniwala ng lang si Bella. Lahat ng sinbi ko nakatingin sa lang ang lang. Mana ba! Ehhh. Ako kaba gayon lang ang lang ko. Ah naman nakakapa. Ting lang nakatalon sa mga artista sa nagpaparebelde — para naman nila ba! Kasi ang ang Anthongan ng rotulo. Anong sinasabi mo sa kanilang ng si Bella a **Gretchen Barretto**? Ako pinapaba. sarap ka ba na lang nagpaniwala si Greta, para si Bella nagpaniwala? ang lahat ni Gretchen di pinagsabi?"

Absurdong pa rin sa Twitter na sinabi "Dami mo sinabi. "Dami akong tiklihan ng mga tao kasi akala nila sa tahar ng sinasabi ko ay mali. Di ako nagbabasa ng komento. Sorry na lang si Bella. Malabo na ako sa akin ng kilometro."

E-mail watchtgirl.ph@yahoo.com, kathy@yahoo.com

GARFIELD

A. UPPH

PUGAD BAABY

DICK TRACY

LOVE-NOTS

JAMES BOND

DRINK COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

SEN

EKO MACHINE

MARMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

FOUNDER TODAY Humanity is fast approaching disaster, so why not find yourself a shelter? Or, better still, a bunker. Once you succeed in this, you can be recognised for your foresight. Mango today. Yes, this is the day that Somethingorother is born, and everyone in the Aquarius area is going to make a big deal out of it. Wear a mango-coloured hat and eat mango in celebration. Or something like that.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Sudden changes or cancellations of travel plans are likely today. Similarly, unexpected changes in romantic situations – especially at universities and colleges – also might occur.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are responsible for the creation or maintenance of silicon, gauze-based products that are built by you. Perhaps it's microscopes, incubators, artificial limbs, pastry bag nozzles or even condoms.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Only those with optimism and natural leadership might excel today. Either you or somebody else wants more leadership! Is one more than enough?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Forgotten wisdom, yellow cotton, educated consonants, cash shortages and sudden changes are some things that might affect you in today. Make sure you're not surprised.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Parents and teachers need to be reminded about birthdays in their own today. There is an extra day in your own birthday this year.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Something will interrupt your daily routine today, especially at work. Unexpected visitors, or bright ideas etc. Explained company would do a no-show. It is your own fault for being so popular.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's cancel? This is a really good, slow-paced day for you. Slow down and take it easy. Don't worry about the time. Be aware of your actions and your speech.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Stress and pressure, your success and your presentation today. You might find stones, you might find money. Guard against loss or theft. It's a magic wand today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A love accept the best from life, but will not settle for you think. Some delivers are inevitable. Stay positive, and it is easier to go under this day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Any fast routines and practices a not optimal today. Something going to control the outcome of your weight or might not be above, make you feel like [illegible].

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Attend or unsubstance, especially whether neighbour has something that someone you today. Conversations with others would cause you to change your path.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a very psychedelic day for reading with subconscious fingers is your day. Be careful to not wake the sleeping giant. Even if you disagree with a boss or parent, it's best to keep the comment.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle:

3	6	7	2	5	8	1	9	4
2	9	5	1	4	7	6	3	8
1	4	8	6	9	3	5	7	2
5	8	2	9	3	1	4	6	7
6	7	3	4	8	5	2	1	9
9	1	4	7	2	6	8	5	3
4	5	9	3	1	2	7	8	6
8	3	1	5	7	4	9	2	6
7	2	6	8	6	9	3	4	5

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Taylor

		8 6 7 9
4 7	9	1
6	5	4
	5	7
9		4
6	1 3	5
9	4	6
1 2		8 3
7		9
		5 2

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 DESPICABLE ME
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 GOING THE DISTANCE
5 SA'YO LAMANG

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 THE LAST EXORCISM
3 PAGNANAKSI
4 12TH DAY
5 MAMMAZZI

MANILA | **METRO EAST**

1 THE EXPENDABLES / GOING THE DISTANCE
2 THE LAST EXORCISM
3 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 THE EXPENDABLES
7 SA'YO LAMANG

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 THE EXPENDABLES
7 12TH DAY
8 THE LAST EXORCISM

NOVALICHES | **FORUM ROBINSONS**

1 GOING THE DISTANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 PLAYBACK @ 25: KIMMY DORA / MIRROR
4 12TH DAY

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 THE LAST EXORCISM
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

STA. ROSA | **LIPA**

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 IN YOUR EYES
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 THE 12TH DAY

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 IP MAN 2

DASMARIÑAS | **STARMILLS**

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 DESPICABLE ME

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 THE EXPENDABLES
4 SA'YO LAMANG
5 IN YOUR EYES
6 GOING THE DISTANCE

IMUS | **ANGELES**

1 12TH DAY
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 DESPICABLE ME

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 DESPICABLE ME

TACLOBAN | **DUMAGUETE**

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 CATS AND DOGS 2

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SA'YO LAMANG

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 IP MAN 2
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 AN AMERICAN VIRGIN
6 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 MAMMAZZI
3 VAMPIRE SUCKS
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 IP MAN
6 SA'YO LAMANG

GENSAN

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 AN AMERICAN VIRGIN

ILOCOS NORTE

1 CATS AND DOGS 2
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SA'YO LAMANG

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Saturday night live with Rain, Arnel Pineda

By Jerry Nunez
Contributor

K-POP is probably the fastest-growing music subculture in the Philippines. It got its biggest boost when singer-actress-dancer Rain — best known for his lead role in K-drama "Full House," films "Speed Racer" and "Ninja Assassin," and his failed-man-Fake bond with TV comedian Stephen Colbert — performed in concert Saturday night at Mall of Asia's open-air grounds. Guests included fellow K-Pop boy band UKiss and Filipino piano virtuoso Christina Bautista.

A mostly female audience turned up at the gig, which ran for two hours. Bautista's opening set was the odd one out for the evening, dominated by ballads like "Something in the Way You Look At Me" and Mariah Carey's "Emotions."

Obvious lip-synching

The crowd went nuts over the famous sets, whose underground looks and pyrotechnic dance steps drew wild cheers. The performers gave their all, despite some very obvious lip-synching during some of the busier numbers.

There was no band, just the singers either singing on, or running to, pre-recorded tracks. It was, essentially, a sweet-but-short pre-packaged hit.

The UKiss set was overtly comedic at times, with the boys daring each other to dance like a girl.

Near the end of its set, the seven-member group amused the audience by doing crap-presented send-ups of the more famous third of the triple-hall. But there were times when 22-ish-year-old dominated to show that a had vocal chops, with its version of Bon Jovi's "Bad of the Road."

35 minutes of Rain

For a major act, Rain's 35-minute, seven-song set was very short. To be fair, he did make up with a long first song, in between some funny footwork with backup dancers.

This was admirable, considering that Rain has a pretty hectic schedule shooting for a TV movie until today.

Still, the all-too-brief performance left some fans clamoring for more. But there was no encore as all.

That was puzzling, especially since Rain is reportedly known for performing to concerts that last for three hours.

Perhaps, the Mall of Asia gig was just a warm-up/test before Rain continues on his tour with the South Korean song, to most young women Pinoy are required to do.

Larger than life

By Pinkoski Concepcion

WATCHING Arnel Pineda in concert is like relishing the rags-to-rubbish-ing, rock 'n' roll resonances of one's youth.

Saturday night, a crowd of about 1,000 crammed Blake Bar on 33rd Avenue, Quezon City, to see Pineda perform with members of his old band, now renamed Asmus, before he became the globe-trotting frontman of American rock band Journey.

Revelation

The gig was a benefit for his youth foundation. It was a wondrous revelation for first-timers, who never saw him at Bulacan's, or in any of the local and Pinoy Pang clubs where he earned a reputation as a singer who can cover the most difficult rock classics, and sound like the originals.

But Pineda is not like some copycat who, for instance, tries to sing like Freddie Mercury or Jon Bon Jovi just on power he can do it. Rather, while he can sound very much like Journey who took his audience with him on a roller-coaster ride from the 1960s to the 2000s, with a few originals, written by Journey-spoken Steward Copps, in between.

Remarkably when the band played "Help," it was not the Beatles' Ed-penned version but that of Tina Turner's ballad cover — Pineda's crisp vocals lilting every hand-wrenching high note with arresting lung power.

A medley of Pinoy Rock hits gained more significance with the way he put his own claim, for example, by singing Sampaguita's "Tao" on a higher key.

Euphoric vibe

When Copps crashed out the riffs to Bastard's "Sumi Like Teen Spirit," a euphoric vibe filled the venue, with a number of die and-knee vandals to contain his joy as he screamed out the chorus while Pineda grew into the mic.

Like a god

After a spirited duel with guest Peng Cervantes on Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine," Pineda took like a god who could do anything — bowing through the Filipino "Hero Complex" and playing air guitar while romping along to a Queen medley that climaxed with "Bohemian Rhapsody" and ended with "We Are the Champions."

This diminutive rock star gets larger than life on the big stage. He should seriously consider bringing this show to the Araneta Coliseum.

HONEY Copps, Asmus band guitarist,